Daily Report

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Russian Nuclear Physicists on Recruitment

LD0603170392 Moscow TASS in English 1205 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 6 ITAR-TASS—Follows the full text of a statement by physicists of Russia signed by Sergey Kapitsa, president of the Physical Society, Nikolay Ponomarev-Stepnoy, president of the Nuclear Society, Vitaliy Mikhailin, president of the Physical Society of Russia:

Recently in the mass media a number of reports have appeared stating that nuclear physicists engaged in research on nuclear weapons are receiving offers to work in countries interested in building atom bombs. Feelings of danger have been expressed, that activities of nuclear physicists from the former Soviet Union in the military programs of countries of the Third World may become a reality in the near future.

We, presidents of nongovernmental societies, uniting scientists and engineers engaged in research in many fields of modern physics and technology are stating that there is no more reason to question the personal and professional integrity and responsibility of our colleagues, than that of the specialists from the U.S.A., the U.K., France and China, where work on nuclear research is conducted.

At the same time, the status and support of scientists and engineers working in fields using recent developments of physics, including specialists in nuclear energy, provides cause for concern. Recent events show that this concern is shared by the Russian Government, which has taken a number of steps to resolve social, economic and organizational problems connected with the conversion of the nuclear industrial complex. We welcome also the initiatives of Western politicians directed to the full utilization of the professional knowledge of specialists from atomic science and industry.

There is no doubt that the preservation and development of the scientific, technological and intellectual potential is the most necessary requisite to bring our country out of the present crisis.

Commentary Views Baker Remarks on Disarmament

LD0903160292 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Vadim Solovyev Commentary]

[Text] Addressing the U.S. Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, the American Secretary of State, Mr. James Baker, has said that there is a real possibility to conclude an agreement soon on a slash in nuclear armaments of the United States and Russia.

After the Presidents of the United States and former Soviet Union signed last July the first agreement on a real reduction of strategic offensive weapons experts believed it would take years before the process reached the second stage but a little more than half a year has passed and the assessments have changed radically. Now there are all grounds to believe that the meeting between the U.S. and Russian Presidents scheduled for this July may result in the conclusion of another treaty in this sphere.

Practically before the ratification the former Soviet Union began implementing the treaty on the strategic nuclear force reduction. At the same time it was declared about the warheads' reduction by another 1,000 units as compared to the agreed limit of 6,000 and additional restrictions have been introduced for the activities of air and naval strategic forces.

When the Commonwealth of Independent States was created among the major foreign political steps taken by the Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, was the expanding of the nuclear disarmament process. U.S. reciprocal steps in this sphere have developed these steps into a sort of disarmament race. The United States suggested lowering the ceilings for nuclear arsenals down to 4.7 hundred [number as heard] nuclear warheads while Russia suggests making them twice the times lower.

The range of reciprocal proposals is very wide, among them is also the proposal to create a joint global system for the protection from long range missiles with the use of the latest achievements of the United States, the CIS states and other countries who would like to take part. Besides, Russia has announced a much lower intensity of combat duty performed by the nuclear submarines, has discontinued the production of heavy bombers and suggests measures to control fissionable materials. Russia has repeatedly raised the question on the full ban on all types of nuclear tests. There are also many other proposals aimed at curtailing the nuclear threat.

These proposals find understanding of the American side. According to reports from Washington scientists and Congressmen believe that the level of one or two thousand warheads per each side is quite enough. In short there are quite a few initiatives to develop the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. Here our coordination will seem to make the basis for another treaty in this sphere. These matters will certainly be discussed and further developed at the meeting between Russian and American Foreign Ministers due to take place next week.

Nuclear Material Reportedly Offered for Sale

AU0903142292 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 9 Mar 92 pp 176-178

[Unattributed report: "A Bomb to Bielefeld"]

[Text] The man lives, thinks, and speaks like an honest citizen from Bielefeld. With his wife and 10-month-old son, he lives in a modest house on Artur-Ladebeck Strasse; with various partners he operates a busy travel agency and an advertising agency.

That is, if it were not for his famous name: Ernst Schliemann, 42, the great-grand nephew of the famous German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann, who discovered Troy.

Last summer, the avid sailer (nickname "Commodore") organized the Third Baltic Traditional, a family regatta across the Baltic Sea. For the first time selected Russians participated in the regatta on old wooden yachts from the Baltic Hanseatic towns. "There they noticed me," Schliemann recalls.

In the autumn, the former Bundeswehr Navy officer searched in St. Petersburg and Moscow for the legendary "Priam's Treasure," which his ancestor had dug up in Turkey, but which was removed from Berlin by the Soviet Army in 1945. The man from Bielefeld did not find the vanished loot, but he found remnants of the import office that was the basis of Heinrich Schliemann's wealth at that time.

As a wholesale trader, the man who later became a scholar earned a fortune in St. Petersburg during the Crimean War in the middle of the last century—providing supplies to the army.

Soon his great-grand nephew felt himself pushed in a similar direction. "At first my new acquaintances urged me to open a trading office," he reports. He was supposed to provide foodstuffs, children's clothing, and household appliances and to establish contacts on the side. Subsequently, he was offered used Polish warships.

Then in November there came the big coup in Bielefeld: A Soviet regatta participant who used to be an engineer in the GDR nuclear power plant in Greifswald told Schliemann on the phone: "We can supply everything from the military sector, including chemical agents and gases." Spent fuel rods from nuclear reactors also could be sent to Germany without any problem, circumventing Euratom and International Atomic Energy Agency controls.

Flabbergasted, the man from Bielefeld asked: "What do you mean?" On 10 December, his fax equipment received the answer. Alexander Bronstein, manager of an LTR [expansion unknown] trading company in Bad Homburg with LTR partners in St. Petersburg and Tallinn, who lives in Germany, gave him explosive information. "Our company," the emigrant wrote in almost perfect German, "already has experience in the delivery of heavy water."

In 1990 Russian LTR employee Aleksey Nikoforov said upon inquiry that the company made large-scale deliveries to Algeria. Heavy water (technical name: deuterium oxide D2O) is used as a moderator in a type of reactor that the Maghreb state currently is building with Chinese help south of the Atlas Mountains, a long way from any possible civilian use. In connection with uranium, weapons grade plutonium can be produced quickly and without costly enrichment—the direct path to nuclear weapons.

All 143 signatory states to the Nonproliferation Treaty, including the Soviet Union and the FRG (but not Algeria), therefore have committed themselves to the strictest possible controls for the sale of the liquid reactor material. The deals of the Alfred Hempel Company from Duesseldorf, which helped India acquire heavy water in the early 1980's, was the reason for years for the heated debate about the proliferation of the nuclear bomb.

There certainly is explosive new material here: Following the Soviets' defeat in the arms race and the cold war, nuclear salesmen from the East are now pushing unscrupulously onto the market. At Christmas, three days before the end of the Soviet Union, LTR sent binding pricelists ($260,000 to $300,000 per tonne of heavy water, depending on the quality) and detailed Russian certificates to Schliemann—"quite something," according to internationally renowned nuclear expert Helmut Hirsch from Hannover.

The transport of heavy water already had started, Schliemann learned shortly afterwards; the trucks were at the Polish border. At the beginning of February, LTR says that 2.8 tonnes already were near Szczecin. Delivery could be made to any country, including to the Third World. As soon "the current offer" was "taken into consideration," Bronstein faxed, one also could deal with other "questions"—including enriched "uranium" and "centrifuges," which are further milestones for those who want to build a bomb.

Without this being any of his doing, Schliemann found himself integrated in the network of an expanding Russian nuclear Mafia, whose existence the Kremlin continues to deny officially, but which is extending its contacts more and more. Egyptian mediators, operating from Vienna, currently are making written offers in Cairo for many kilograms of highly enriched uranium and plutonium, allegedly from Soviet stocks, at the "package" price of $180 million, including a "commission" of $15 million.

Schliemann may have met one of the wire-pullers: Recently, without a previous appointment, a gentleman rang his doorbell, introduced himself as a former Soviet Defense Ministry employee, and presented the astonished man from Bielefeld with a list of highly pure and rare metals that could be delivered immediately and obviously from military stocks.

Through the LTR's mediation, the newly founded Russian-Belgian joint venture company Sirin called from Moscow "to discuss some questions of cooperation." Schliemann should come to Russia and the company would pay his expenses. The week before last, LTR employee Nikoforov told him that all offers that had been made so far were basically "cheap dirt." Sirin could offer "really big arms deals," which a Swiss "corporation" already is trying to obtain.

Because he "wants to show the public what is possible today" and "in order to urge NATO to react," ex-Navy officer Schliemann informed DER SPIEGEL.

At the center of the dealers' ring, in the spacious Sirin office near the Botanical Garden in Moscow, those responsible are keeping quiet. On a visit to the office, Sirin Director General Valeriy Ryumin boasts of having

the "best contacts with the old structures," above all former Soviet Army officers. LTR employee Nikiforov claims that Vladimir Glotov, Ryumin's deputy, has a wide knowledge of nuclear matters for military purposes because of his professional past. However, Ryumin and Glotov prefer to keep quiet about any international deals the company has made so far. They admit only one thing: "We deal with used engine oil and metals."

Commentary on U.S. 'Superpower' Doctrine

LD1003142692 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] There has been a sensation in the United States and the rest of the world over the publication in THE NEW YORK TIMES of the summary of a secret Pentagon document containing directives for defense planning up to the end of the nineties. The plan boils down to the following: To prevent appearance of rivals to the United States on the international arena and to create a world with only one superpower in it. Commentary by Aleksandr Pogodin:

It's been a long time, it seems, since the main foreign policy and military doctrines of Washington were formulated so directly. True, though, about a decade ago, with Ronald Reagan as President then, a concept of neo-globalism was produced, openly providing for the actual establishment of American dictation all over the world and for proclaiming the right of the United States to interfere in the affairs of any other country, including by using force. But as changes began in the system of international relations and the cold war ended neo-globalism was practically forgotten and considered buried. And yet the concept seems to be alive.

The Pentagon document says the United States must prevent any other force from dominating in any region and that this force might get the status of a global power. Stern warnings are made to all other countries, even to allied ones. For example, it is underlined that the advanced industrial countries, including Japan and Germany, should not become rivals to the U.S. leadership. Very tough instructions in the list of regions are given, including Western and Eastern Europe, East and South-West Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Africa. In short, the whole world must know it will have to live by how the United States decides it should.

Naturally, Russia and other Commonwealth countries are anxious in particular about the basis on which the United States intends to build its relations with them. The document notes that the best option for the U.S. would be to have a democratic partnership with Russia and the other republics of the former Soviet Union. It backs their efforts to become peaceful democracies with market economies. However, one gets the impression that this statement of fact is paying a polite tribute to the times. The essence of the U.S. policy, the Pentagon insists, must lie in planning defense against the threat of a rebirth of Soviet expansionism. For this reason U.S. strategic nuclear arms will still be targeted on key objects in the former USSR, on all the installations that represent the greatest value for the current and future Russian leaders or other nuclear rivals.

Pertinent questions appear at once. What about the statements by the leaders of the United States and Russia that their countries are no longer potential adversaries? How can one regard the assurances that the United States and Russia will be developing relations of partnership and allied relations in the long term? What can one really believe in the long run—the peaceful declarations or the practical programs that are fully in the spirit of the cold war? These questions are very important for the public of Russia and the other countries of the CIS.

Armed Forces Official at CSCE Seminar Cited

LD0703024492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1524 GMT 6 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Excerpts] Vienna, 6 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—A CSCE seminar on "Armed Forces in Democratic Societies" is being held in Vienna. [passage omitted]

Great interest was generated by today's presentation at the seminar by Lieutenant General Fedor Ladygin, head of the treaty and legal administration of the General Staff of the CIS Unified Armed Forces. Having remarked that a whole complex of documents on defense matters to be studied by the leaders of the CIS countries at the Kiev summit on 20 March are now being prepared, he stressed that these documents lay the foundations for a new concept of security in conditions of democracy, which is determined by the qualitively new character of interrelations between the state and society.

According to him, first place in the system of state priorities is given to the protection of the interests of the individual and society as a whole. As part of society, the Army recognizes the need for radical changes and supports the democratic reforms being carried out, seeing its role as the protection of citizens' interests.

The command of the CIS Unified Armed Forces, continued Ladygin, considers it impermissible and criminal to use the Army against its own people or against the lawful, democratically elected political leadership. He recalled that the Unified Armed Forces have been completely depoliticized and that the activity of any parties whatsoever in them has been banned.

CSCE's Future Development Pondered

PM0903155592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Mar 92 First Edition p 7

[Article by Yevgeniy Gusarov, chief of Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Administration for Security and Cooperation in Europe, under the "Diplomacy" rubric: "Toward a Europe of Democracy and Unity"]

[Text] The conference of heads of state and government of the 48 CSCE member countries, due to be held in Helsinki in July, will be a major international event of the year. The previous meetings on this scale were held at turning points in European history and invariably gave a boost to the development of a qualitatively new situation on the continent and throughout the world. The Final Act was signed in Helsinki in 1975, and the Charter for a New Europe in Paris in 1990. What will "Helsinki-2" bring us?

This summit meeting is being convened under fundamentally new geopolitical conditions. West Europe, the countries of North America, and the young states of East Europe, the Transcaucasus, and Central Asia which have emerged in the place of totalitarian regimes are seeking paths toward the joint defense of common values and ideals and the establishment of relations of partnership and also, in the long term, alliance. It is now necessary to elaborate the outlines of an all-embracing concept of the development of postconfrontational Europe and to begin forming a new type of Euro-Atlantic community on the basis of the CSCE and in cooperation with other European organizations (above all, with NATO, the EC, and the Council of Europe), which would guarantee and maintain stability on the vast territory from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

The all-European process is now casting off its "old clothes" and will appear before the world renewed and purged of the accretions of the times of confrontation and ideological disunity. The CSCE member states are no longer cut off from the outside world by the armor of sovereignty when it comes to the realization of human rights. This is one of the main results of the development of the process enshrined at the Conference on the Human Dimension in Moscow. Its participants arrived at an understanding that Europe must now live by a single law that is common to all and makes no exceptions for anyone at all. The purpose of the leaders' meeting in Helsinki is to adopt this as a rule of conduct.

Following the victory of democracy over totalitarianism last August and following the first nationwide election of the Russian president, the all-European principles have become identical—in the full sense of this word—with our internal interests and the tasks of the country's democratic transformation.

A new qualitative stage faces Russia in the foreign policy sphere. We no longer regard the West as a potential enemy but pose the task of establishing friendly relations with it and see ourselves as its ally in the long term. Our aim is to join the community of states with pluralist democracy and with a free market economy. The role of the CSCE here is indispensable. The chief thing for us within it is to give the lofty aims, norms, and obligations of the process a foundation of reliable international guarantees and to create extensive and foolproof instruments of mutual control. Under conditions of a still far-from-stable Europe it is particularly important to impart to the all-European process the ability to react quickly to the challenges of the times and to equip it with mechanisms to prevent conflicts and settle crises.

The Prague session of the CSCE Council of Foreign Ministers, held at the end of January, drew up guidelines for the next all-European meeting, which is opening in March at ministerial level and is to be a very important stage in the preparations for "Helsinki-2." The essence of the guidelines is recognition of the multifaceted nature of the all-European concept of security and its new parameters. The basic causes of tension in Europe are mainly of an interethnic nature at present. In this conntext, emphasis is placed on the need to strengthen the CSCE potential in resolving problems that affect national minorities, both in relations between countries and within states.

In Prague the ministers agreed to regularize the use of CSCE mechanisms providing for special human rights missions to be sent to countries where these rights are violated, as well as to observe the holding of elections. I would like to dwell on this in greater detail.

Of course, free elections are the quintessence of democracy, but it must not be forgotten that Hitler too acceded to power by way of elections. In other words, elections in themselves are not a guarantee of democracy and do not give even elected people a mandate for extreme actions. They are just an element of the democratic process which preceeds them and which must continue without interruptions. Russia has proposed thinking of the possibility of endowing the CSCE with powers to send to a state which has held an election campaign missions to study the way the elected authorities are complying with the principles of freedom of speech and other human rights on the expiry of a certain period following the elections—for example, six months or a year later. Automatically, moreover, without the right of refusal.

The humanitarian sphere in general must not be bound by considerations of state sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs. Our experience shows how important "interference" can sometimes be, or it would be more accurate to say international support for democracy. We saw this for ourselves 19 August.

Fundamental significance attaches to the Prague decision that henceforth the Council of Foreign Ministers and the Senior Officials Committee—the chief CSCE organs—may, in cases of obvious, gross, and systematic violation of human rights, take the necessary actions even without the consent of the country committing such violations, in other words "consensus minus one."

The council devoted great attention to military-political questions and, in particular, to the upcoming new talks on disarmament and the strengthening of confidence- and security-building measures in Europe. A recommendation was also adopted to set up CSCE chambers of commerce in countries making the transition to a market economy. It is envisaged that such chambers will assist contacts between representatives of business circles in the participant states and encourage entrepreneurial activity.

The results of the Council of Ministers session and the documents adopted there fit, on the whole, within the framework of Russia's priorities in the all-European area and lay a good basis for the meeting in Helsinki and the top-level CSCE conference.

It seems to me that the process must continue to develop along the path of strengthening its power functions and turning the CSCE into an organ which adopts binding decisions in all spheres of cooperation among states. This concerns, above all, imparting juridically binding

force to CSCE accords, gradually abandoning the principle of consensus, and, in the long term, creating an efficient court organ within the framework of the process. Russia's interests would be met by the presence in Europe of such an influential organization guided in its activity by the laws of civilized contemporary communal life and by the will of the majority of the democratic participant states. This, in our view, is a reliable guarantee against the emergence of latter-day Husayns in Europe.

A most important decision of the Prague council was to admit 10 independent states—former republics of the USSR—to the CSCE at once as member states with full rights. It was not easy to adopt that decision. The stumbling block was the question of the participation of the Asian CIS countries in the all-European process. Right from the start Russia had unequivocally advocated admitting to the CSCE all the republics of the former USSR without exception. This position was then supported by all our partners in the CSCE.

So, the CSCE area today includes the Transcaucasus and Central Asia. How will Russia's policy be affected by the inclusion of the countries of the "closest foreign parts" in such an authoritative international forum? Undoubtedly in a positive way. Henceforth, our relations with all the CIS countries must be built on the principles and norms of the CSCE. This will also promote the advance of the new independent states along the path of democratic development.

It is also an important fact that the "expansion" of Europe from the Atlantic to the Pamirs extends the operation of the anticrisis mechanisms of the all-European process to the entire area of the CIS and turns the CSCE into a reliable guarantor of stability on one-sixth of the world's dry land. An example of this is the CSCE mission to Nagorno-Karabakh. The efforts of the states directly involved and of Russia to treat this "unhealing wound" in the CIS are now being joined by the potential of the CSCE.

I would like to express the hope that the many years' experience of the CSCE and the comprehensive system of obligations drawn up within its framework might become a good standard for the building of civilized interstate relations within the CIS.

The wind of change that has blown over Europe is dramatically changing our continent, transforming our own selves and our thinking, and opening up new, previously inconceivable opportunities. The Euro-Atlantic area, which is called upon to closely unite Europe with the states of North America, remains and will remain for the long term one of the chief arenas of activity for Russian diplomacy. We see open and honest cooperation with all the participants in the all-European process, without any prejudice or old dogmas, as one of the main ways to revive the independent democratic Russia and to realize the lofty aims of the CSCE—the building of a Europe of democracy, peace, and unity.

Withdrawal of Army Units From Latvia To Begin

LD0903191292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1517 GMT 7 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Riga—According to some sources, on March 10-20 a military communication unit stationed in Salatsgriv will be among the first units to leave Latvia. Competent sources informed PF [POSTFACTUM] that the final date of withdrawal of former Soviet troops from the Baltic territory is not yet clear, but is is not likely that it will happen before 1994, when the troops from East Germany will be withdrawn completely.

Military

Commander Notes Opposing Views on Fleet

LD1003102392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0935 GMT 10 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Golyayev]

[Text] Rome, 10 Mar (TASS)—At the meeting of CIS leaders set for 20 March, Ukraine intends to demand that 80 percent of the ships of the Black Sea Fleet be transferred to its jurisdiction. This was stated by Admiral Igor Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, in an interview with the Italian newspaper LA STAMPA.

He said that the CIS, in its turn, is offering to allocate to Ukraine approximately 20 percent of the ships of the Black Sea Fleet. This should be sufficient for carrying out the tasks facing the navy of the republic, the leaders of which stress that the Ukrainian navy will not be of an aggressive nature and reject the use of nuclear weapons.

These two points of view will clash at the 20 March meeting, and I doubt whether it will be possible to reach a compromise there, I. Kasatonov said.

"Nationalism is the most terrible threat, wherever it may originate, the Admiral said. I fear an artificial division of the Fleet, I fear political extremism." [quotation marks as received]

I. Kasatonov stressed that it was not a matter of "taking" the Black Sea Fleet from Ukraine. This is not possible, from the tactical, strategic, economic, or political point of view, he stated.

More on 366th Regiment Withdrawal From Karabakh

LD0903220392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1959 GMT 9 Mar 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Tbilisi [dateline as received]—Previously this regiment was stationed in Stepanakert (Khankendy). At present virtually all the unit personnel is staying in Vaziani, Georgia. Headquarters of the Trancaucasian Military District reported that on February 23 commanders of the regiment decided to dissipate after 3 servicemen were killed and over 10 wounded under grad cannons fire from an Azerbaijani town of Shusha. Lieutenant-General Sufiyan Beppayev, deputy commander of the Trancaucasian Military District, told PF [POSTFACTUM] that regiment commander Lieutenant-Colonel Yuriy Zarvigorov ordered all three battalions of the unit to move to the concentration district from which the personnel was to be evacuated to Georgia by helicopters, despite of the command to withdraw only the first infantry battalion. Commander of the 366th regiment reported to the headquarters that he had evacuated only one battalion. Lieutenant-General considered these actions arbitrariness which turned out costly: Soon all battalions were blocked by Armenian militants. As early as March 2 after the regiment had received the order to relocate from Nagorno-Karabakh the first convoy of military equipment had to break a camp at Balludzha, 6 km from Stepanakert. Paratroopers arrived from Gyandzha to support the regiment's withdrawal had to resist a military attack. Beppayev spoke negatively of 366th regiment commander Yuriy Zarvigorov. According to deputy commander of the Trancaucasian Military District, Zarvigorov had wrecked the regiment and now he refuses to continue the military service and will most probably retire from the Army.

General Beppayev also said that commander of the 2nd infantry battalion Major Seyran Oganyan withdrew his troops from Stepanakert to Balludzha but later returned to the Stepanakert base and never showed up in the regiment again. Supposedly, at present Major Seyran Oganyan is with one of Armenian military units. If this information is confirmed battalion commander from the 366th regiment will be considered a traitor. At the same time Lieutenant-Colonel Sergey Kraule, 366th regiment chief of staff, believes that it may be early to label battalion commander. At least, chief of staff denied that Major Oganyan, an ethnic Armenian, had helped Armenian partisans. According to chief of staff, Armenian warrant officers have stayed with their regiment in Stepanakert with few exceptions. Lieutenant-Colonel Kraule also resolutely rebuffed the rumors of the regiment's division on two parts supporting Armenians and Azerbaijanis.

According to unconfirmed data, commander of the 3rd infantry battalion Yevgeniy Nabokikh has fled to Armenian partisans together with Oganyan. Representatives of airborne troops, which took part in the support of 366th regiment's withdrawal from Nagorno-Karabakh, stated that the regiment had been almost completely demoralized. Paratroopers said that over 100 servicemen of the 366th regiment took part in the action having joined Karabakh self-defense forces. During the evacuation paratroopers random checked several dozen servicemen and found some of them holding large sums of money, including hard currency.

Airborne representatives also reported that on the march from Stepanakert to the concentration district the military had conceded some of the military equipment to Karabakh self-defense units, including several Shilka Zenith self-propelled mountings and cannons. In the concentration district combat equipment was guarded only by paratroopers. Several times they had to fight the attacks of military formations, which tried to seize the regiment's equipment. For this reason the equipment and arms which could not be taken by helicopters were exploded. Lieutenant-General Sufiyan Beppayev, deputy commander of the Trancaucasian Military District, said that soon the 366th regiment will be dissolved. While a corresponding order is expected from Moscow a number of officers have already got new appointments.

Documents on Future Military Arrangements Viewed

PM1003121192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Igor Vashkevich: "Military Preparing for Meeting in Kiev"]

[Text] An official conference began 9 March at the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command. It is dedicated to an analysis of documents prepared by the military for the meeting of the presidents heads of state [as published] in Kiev 20 March. Colonel of Justice Vasiliy Volkov, chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Directorate of Affairs Military Legislation Department, told your correspondent about the content of those documents.

The package includes over 20 documents on questions of CIS defense. They include agreements on the procedure for the ratification, approval, and implementation by Commonwealth states of the USSR-U.S. Treaty on Strategic Offensive Arms Limitation and the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

Draft agreements have also been prepared on the legal bases of the Joint Armed Forces' activity and on protecting the external borders and maritime economic zones of the Commonwealth. The first draft agreement envisages that, prior to the full reorganization of the former USSR's Armed Forces, the activity of troops and the social and legal protection of personnel will be regulated by the states' agreements and decisions of their joint organs and acts of those states and the former Union insofar as they do not contravene the aforementioned agreements and decisions. The protection of borders and zones is entrusted to the Commonwealth's border troops and the states' own border troops. The task in Kiev is to ratify the provisions on the High Command of the Joint Armed Forces and the Joint Command of Border Troops and sign agreements defining the status of the general purpose forces (for seven states) and the status of the Commonwealth's Border Troops.

It is planned to set up the Commonwealth's supreme organ on defense questions—the Council of Heads of State—while the coordination of military building is to be entrusted to the Council of Defense Ministers. Their powers will be defined by a special agreement. In particular, the Council of Heads of State is to adopt the Commonwealth's military doctrine and nuclear strategy and establish a procedure for adopting the decision to use nuclear weapons and a system of measures precluding their unauthorized use.

In view of the fact that troop groupings previously created on the basis of operational and strategic necessity are actually present on the territory of the independent states, the military believe, the state must assume a commitment to implement coordinated measures to ensure in the interim period a single procedure for the draft, staffing, and performance of military service by Joint Armed Forces servicemen.

The criteria here are as follows: Draft age in all states shall be from 18 to 27 years; fixed-term draft service shall be combined with service under contract; the territorial and extraterritorial principle of recruitment shall be applied for the Strategic Forces while the territorial principle and contract service shall be applied for general purpose forces, based on operational need and in coordination with the relevant states.

The following periods of service are to be set for draftees—18 months for the bulk of draftees and two years for ratings and petty officers on ships, vessels, and naval combat support shore units. Service shall be 2 years for people with higher education.

The Joint Armed Forces High Command acknowledges the expediency of retaining the existing system of predraft training of young people and the training of specialists for the Joint Armed Forces. The draft will be carried out by Commonwealth states within the limits of the annual quotas. The states will not prevent citizens from performing military service in the Joint Armed Forces or the armed forces of Commonwealth states under contract or on a voluntary basis. All cadets and students presently studying at military educational institutions will complete their education there free of charge.

"The adoption of all these documents," Colonel of Justice Volkov said, "will make it possible to preserve on CIS territory a single strategic space, a mechanism for the leadership of troops, and the observance of the rights and legitimate interests of servicemen and their families. Unfortunately, agreement has not yet been reached on the actual amounts of defense finance which are to be allocated by the Commonwealth states."

Belarus Reconsiders CIS Defense Contribution

OW0903184192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1621 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Government sources in Belarus have said that many CIS member-countries have disagreed with the draft of financing strategic forces and general purpose forces, presented by the chief financial department of the CIS Armed Forces. Belarus, requested to provide 15.75 bln. [billion] roubles and 14.52 bln. roubles accordingly, argues that the figures are overcharged. The draft resolution of contributions to the budget of the allied Armed Forces will be discussed by the CIS summit conference of the Commonwealth on March 20.

CIS Servicemen Will Be Allowed To Buy Pistols

LD0903221792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1959 GMT 9 Mar 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Moscow [dateline as received]—According to some data, the headquarters of United Armed Forces has been drafting a document allowing to sell guns to servicemen.

As PF [POSTFACTUM] learned from unofficial sources, the move is likely to involve Nagan handguns which are currently stored in large quantities in military units' depots. Previously, military officers were granted the right to acquire Smirnov rifles at R [ruble] 1,500 per unit though the rifles had not been modernized according to the applicable norms for personal guns.

An order issued by the CIS commander-in-chief, Air Force Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov to turn rifles back has not being fulfilled. PF was informed that handguns would be sold only for military servicemen obtaining insurance certificates proving that the value of their personal property (cars, summer houses, etc.) is not less than R50,000.

Viability of Civilian Space Launches Questioned

PM0903150992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Mar 92 p 4

[Reply to reader's letter by Lieutenant Colonel M. Arkhipov, senior officer at the CIS Joint Armed Forces Space Systems Directorate: "The Payloads Are Foreign..."]

[Text] The DELOVOY MIR newspaper published an advertisement by the Dnepr Region Commodity Exchange (Ukraine) offering to perform the whole range of work to launch various satellites into space orbit using "Zenit-2" and "Tsiklon" launch vehicles from the Baykonur and Plesetsk cosmodromes. But, as far as I know, the launch of all space vehicles and their control is performed by space units. I wonder how much the military department will get for this?

[Signed] A. Ustimenko, Yekaterinburg.

Lieutenant Colonel M. Arkhipov, senior officer at the CIS Joint Armed Forces Space Systems Directorate:

The advertiser claims to have the capability of placing payloads into spherical and elliptical orbit, but this is unrealistic. The country's major and unique enterprises in the space rocket industry, which were nationalized by Ukraine on the basis of territorial ownership in the period of the disintegration of the USSR, cannot put even the tiniest rocket into space without launch systems or test ranges.

The space units, which perform launches of all types of satellites named in the advertisement from the Baykonur or Plesetsk cosmodromes, have no relationship with the market. The leadership of the Dnepr Region Commodity Exchange which "threw" the new type of "space service" onto the international market should first of all think whether civilian specialists in the republic space industry can perform the work advertised in view of the lack of opportunity to launch space vehicles from the launch facilities of cosmodromes which are still the property of the Armed Forces. After all, the mere procedures for preparing a typical satellite for a minimum period of 14 weeks costs around $750,000 ($53,000 a week), and the cost of preparing similar U.S. launch vehicles for launching is estimated at a sum between $40 million and $70 million. Convert this into rubles.

Incidentally, throughout the whole history of our cosmonautics, this work was performed free of charge as part of the space units' military budget. Thus the question of how much will be owed, and to whom, by the Ukrainian commodity exchange and space industry enterprises in this case remains open...

Russian Flag To Fly on Ceremonial Occasions

PM0903142192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Mar 92 p 1

[Colonel V. Streltsov report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "The St. Andrew's Flag on the Bespokoynyy Raised Only on the Top Mast]

[Text] St. Petersburg—Certain mass media hurried to report that the first ship in the Navy that will permanently fly the St. Andrew's flag will be the destroyer Bespokoynyy which came off the stocks at the Severnaya Shipyard plant a few days ago.

The St. Andrew's flag, as a symbol of the revival of naval traditions, was indeed raised over the ship on the day that the ship was launched into the water. But it was only as a top mast flag, raised on festivals. Captain First Rank Sergey Morgunov, assistant commander of the Leningrad Naval Base, told me this. The naval ensign, which was handed to the ship's commander by Vice Admiral V. Selivanov, commander of the Leningrad Naval Base, was raised as the main ensign.

"Bespokoynyy will start using the new insignia at the same time as the whole Navy, when the relevant orders come from the CIS Joint Armed Forces Main Command," S. Morgunov said at the end of the conversation. "Until then the destroyer will go out to sea under the currently accepted naval flag."

Commonwealth

Congress Supporter Believes CIS is 'Utopia'

LD0903210192 Moscow TASS in English 1319 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 7 ITAR-TASS—"The existence of the Commonwealth of Independent States is an Utopia," Sazhiy Umalatova, chairman of the organising committee for the convocation of the sixth extraordinary congress of USSR people's deputies, said in a PRAVDA interview today.

Umalatova, a public figure known for her determinative speeches in the union parliament, emphasises the Commonwealth "can scrumble [as received] any moment", which will spell even greater troubles for the people than the ones caused by the disintegration of the USSR.

She said the initiators of convening the extraordinary congress of people's deputies of the former Union set themselves the task of forming "the nucleus around

which all republics, territories and regions would unite on equal and mutually beneficial terms with the single goal to arrest the economy's slide into an abyss."

Asked by a PRAVDA correspondent if she does not fear that the press will describe the organisers as plotters in the event of the failure to convene the congress, Umalatova said: "This would not surprise me. But we are not plotters, we are the lawful constitutional authority. One should fight for the right cause even if it looks hopeless."

Media, Military View USSR Congress Rumors

PM0903150592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 7 Mar 92 p 1

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA feature prepared by S. Bartnikas, A. Kosulnikov, A. Korzun, S. Drozdov, A. Rybina, and A. Khokhlov citing Media and Military sources on proposed sixth congress of USSR people's deputies 17 March under the "Question of the Week" rubric: "Where Were You on 17 March?"]

[Text] Two rumors, and they are not mutually exclusive by the way, have swept across the CIS.

First, there is the opinion that on 17 March delegates to the so-called "sixth congress of USSR people's deputies" are going to reinstate the Constitution of the former USSR on the territory of the former USSR. And they are nominating their own candidate to the post of president of this new (old) state (it is thought it could be Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov).

On the other hand, some observers do not rule out the possibility of preemptive measures by the Russian leadership—arrests, for example.

Rumors must be checked. That is why we put two questions to certain "interested parties": What will you do if you receive an order from Ryzhkov or anyone else whom the forthcoming congress nominates as president of the USSR? What will you do if Russian President Boris Yeltsin takes repressive measures against the opposition?

We received these replies:

Aleksandr Prokhanov, chief editor of the newspaper DEN:

According to my information, the congress of USSR people's deputies on 17 March will confirm the authority of the USSR Constitution on USSR territory. Accordingly all the present power structures must be repudiated. Gorbachev's resignation will be confirmed. They are hardly going to elect a president: This post was artificially imposed on our state. A chairman of the Supreme Soviet will be elected. Then the congress must appeal to the army, which has taken the oath of allegiance to the USSR Constitution. Military ranks lower than major general hate the present bureaucratic and mercenary military hierarchy which has destroyed the army. They are simply waiting for a sufficiently strong legitimate center to appear.

As for the presidents of the independent republics (Mutalibov, for example), in the atmosphere of economic and political crisis power is slipping away from them and many of them, in my view, are seeking an opportunity to backtrack.

The congress of USSR deputies will be supported by a rally in Moscow of all forces opposed to the regime. As Umalatova told me, thorough preparatory work for the holding of the congress is being conducted in the most unfavorable conditions now. USSR deputies who refuse to take part in it will automatically surrender their mandates—thus, the quorum will be ensured.

Of course, the present regime is organizing the strongest possible opposition to the Congress. To be honest, we, the patriotic opposition, fear political arrests on the eve of the Congress. And during the rally, City Hall, which has still not given permission for it to go ahead, will undoubtedly organize provocation and a pitched battle to wreck both the rally and the congress. Popov and Luzhkov will not surrender their billions as easily as that.

But no matter what they do, resistance is gaining momentum. A powerful bloc of opposition to the present regime is being formed now, a bloc which includes not only red forces but white forces, too—for example, Christian Democrats and some businessmen. I think that Volskiy and his people in the military-industrial complex will support us.

I, personally, will be in the crowd at the rally on 17 March.

Yuriy Gusev, first deputy chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces General Staff Main Intelligence Directorate [GRU]:

The GRU is a foreign intelligence organization, we do not interfere in internal affairs. And if the congress of USSR people's deputies or the Russian Government declares a state of emergency, we will not be embroiled in any adventures or take part in any revolts.

Incidentally, the GRU is directly subordinate to the General Staff. As for subunits of the GRU spetsnaz stationed on Russian territory, they must obey the orders of the commanders of military districts...

Vitaliy Ignatenko, general director of the ITAR-TASS agency:

First, I do not think that any coup or restoration of the old constitutional norms is possible at all. But if a group of people declare themselves the new rulers and "ask" me to obey their orders, I shall resign immediately. I think that all my colleagues will do likewise.

Colonel General Vladimir Semenov, commander in chief of the Ground Forces:

I do not believe any rumors and I advise you not to believe them. The army does not play political games. I do not intend bringing the Kantemir and Taman divisions into Moscow under any circumstances.

Vladimir Ovchinnikov, deputy director of the Pressa Publishing House:

Much time has passed since 19 August. Our publishing house is autonomous now. The Ministry of the Press and the Mass Media, to whose structure we belong, does not help us but does not place any obstacles in our way either. For any newspaper—regardless of political views—failure to appear means great losses for us. We operate now solely on the basis of economic expediency.

But if they bring in the guns and place one behind each type-setter—then I do not know. Some, perhaps, will not turn up for work, others will yield in the face of the bullets.

Reserve Colonel General Albert Makashov:

I ignore rumors. In any event, the Yeltsin regime's possible decision to prevent the congress of USSR people's deputies, which is legal and constitutional, from being held will only serve the rightful cause. Martyrs who have suffered for their faith and for the fatherland have always enjoyed people's sympathy and love in Rus. The regime of democratic dictatorship is making the nails for its own cross. But as for Ryzhkov, do not make me laugh. Compared with Gorbachev he is a pale shadow who disappeared as twilight approached.

Major General Igor Rubtsov, commander of an internal troops special purpose motorized rifle division:

To be honest, you have stunned me. The situation is under control, where do you get this nonsense from? We anticipate the development of situations, we do not wait for events, we have no information of that kind. But if anything happens I will act according to the dictates of my conscience and the orders of my superior officer. How does my conscience dictate? That is my concern.

RIA Postscript:

The Russian Supreme Soviet leadership believes that the initiative of the former USSR people's deputies to convene the "sixth congress of USSR people's deputies" is bound to cause bewilderment at the very least because there is no legal basis for holding such a "congress," according to the commentary of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet distributed 5 March. This is primarily because USSR people's deputies themselves paved the way to the collapse of the Union at the Fifth Congress when they adopted a decision on its voluntary disbandment.

The parliaments of the independent states, including the Russian Federation, adopted a decision to recall their deputies.

Thus the resumption of the activity of the organs of the former USSR on the Russian Federation's territory is incompatible with the status of a sovereign state.

Well, Who Knows...

As KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reports, the Armed Forces Center for Military-Sociological, Psychological, and Legal Research has polled 1,200 officers and NCOs at 10 garrisons in the Russian Federation.

The poll shows the following:

The government's activity is supported by 17 percent and disapproved by 56 percent of those polled. In addition, 90 percent of officers noted a fall in their living standard compared with last year.

Meeting Views Metallurgical Complex Situation

PM1003113792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Oleg Stefashin: "Metallurgical Workers Have United To Survive"]

[Text] Karaganda—The crisis situation which has arisen at the former Union's metallurgical complex could lead to very powerful economic upheavals in all Commonwealth countries. This was stated at a three-day meeting in Temirtau by representatives of the largest metallurgical enterprises of Russia, Kazakhstan, and Central Asia.

Answering IZVESTIYA's question about how real these fears are, O. Soskovets, Kazakhstan first deputy prime minister, who in the recent past held the post of USSR minister of metallurgy, said:

"The fact that the metallurgical complex is experiencing a crisis can be seen even by the naked eye. As is well known, in the past it was created on the basis of the principle of a single mechanism with a closed manufacturing cycle. With the collapse of the Union it was, naturally, violated, and economic and production relations began to be broken everywhere. As a result blast furnaces and rolling mills are coming to a standstill and the capacities of the largest combines are being reduced. According to experts' assessments the overall production volumes have already declined 30-35 percent.

The participants in the meeting, who also included representatives of the mining and metal working complexes, in general rapidly found a common language. In their opinion, under the conditions of the complete collapse of the economy, when the metallurgical production facilities are being supplied at best with only 20-30 percent of what they need and are having to find all the rest wherever they can, it is primarily new forms of economic relations based on the principles of mutual aid and mutual advantage which can become the only way out of the situation.

It is now perfectly obvious that after the Temirtau meeting, whose main result was the creation of several quite complex transnational structures, the situation in the metallurgical complex is being normalized to some extent. Nonetheless the metallurgical workers considered it necessary to appeal to the CIS countries' heads to help them halt the destructive process taking place in the sector by granting it specific economic and tax benefits.

Media

TASS Carries Press Review for 10 Mar

LD1003064592 Moscow TASS in English 0617 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—The discussions of the draft of the a Russian Constitution, which is to be published this week, is in the focus of attention of newspapers on Tuesday [10 March]. [sentence as received] The acute political struggle in society is moving parliamentary discussions towards the adoption of a new constitution, the "SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA" daily points out in its "Parliamentary Diary." The new draft of the constitution submitted to parliamentarians is rather attractive: It is written in good language, is devoid of ideological cliches, takes into consideration the experience of foreign constitutions. However, there are a lot of items causing concern, the newspaper stresses.

Much attention is also devoted to the latest developments in the "hot spots" of the Commonwealth. "The President Resigns" and "Details of an Explosion in Yerevan" were the "TRUD" 's headlines for events in Azerbaijan and Armenia. The "NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA" and the "SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA" headlined their reports from Moldova "Negotiations and Shootings in the Pridnestr Region", "They Shoot in the Back" correspondingly.

The "NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA" publishes a report of its correspondent Nadar Brolaze on Eduard Shevardnadze's arrival in Georgia. "The moment for Shevardnadze's return could not be chosen better: Georgia is in a postwar depression, the political situation is unstable, crime rate grows, economy does not practically exist and what is more important—people see no outcome," he wrote. "Many Georgians view Shevardnadze's arrival as an outcome as he has a lot friends in the West and is popular there," the newspaper stressed. [sentence as received]

"Those who say the country does not exist are liars," according to former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev who is currently on a private visit in Germany. The quotation is used by the "NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA" as a headline to his interview with RIA correspondent Vladimir Markov on the latest CIS developments and on his impressions about the German tour.

It is possible to untie "the Crimean knot" only by "a search for mutual understanding and accord, not by confrontation," a "TRUD" correspondent writes from the Crimea. "From the three variants of solution (Crimea as part of Ukraine, as part of Russia and as an independent republic) the scales are moving towards state independence," the author believes.

The Russian airfleet is living through a very difficult and decisive period, according to Aleksandr Larin, the Russian first deputy transport minister. He said in an interview with the "TRUD" newspaper that "market reforms which are going not that smoothly as one would like it to go, economic difficulties, the broken relations with East European countries and the torn down ties with contractors and clients, with certain airfleet units negatively affect the present-day state of the Russian aviation." [sentence as received] Only six of all airports today enjoy the second ICAO [International Civil Aviation Organization] category—three in Moscow, one in St. Petersburg, the airports in Ulyanovsk (on the Volga) and in Mineralnye Vody (northern Caucasus).

The "SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA" publishes the text of the "Declaration on Creating the United Oposition," signed by the leaders of a number of movements, parties and by deputies of various levels. The declaration which remains open for all those interested was initiated by the Russian Popular Union, the Russian People's Assembly, the Foundation for the Restoration of Christ the Saviour Cathedral and others. Their motto is "Justice, People, Statehood, Patriotism."

The Nizhnedneprovsky tube-rolling mill in Ukraine is facing a critical situation because of lack of raw materials, the "RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA" writes. To prevent a shutdown the plant sponsored collection of scrap and is paying one thousand rubles for a tonne of it. However, this is a temporary solution and the workforce will soon be drastically cut down as there is no money to pay wages.

"New World Order—The Order American Way" is "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA" 's headline of its commentary to the secret Pentagon doctrine "The Directive in Defence Sphere for 1994-1998 Fiscal Years," excerpts from which were quoted by the "NEW YORK TIMES".

Newspapers also carry reports on developments in Yugoslavia, the Middle East, cover the session of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and publish economic news.

International Affairs

Development of Trade With PRC Discussed

LD0803231192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1801 GMT 6 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Kirillov]

[Text] Beijing, 6 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—"We hope that the present visit will provide impetus for the development of trade and economic coooperation between the Russian Federation and China, and will help overcome existing difficulties," Russia's Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Petr Aven told an ITAR-TASS correspondent. Today he met Zou Jiahua, member of the State Council [title as received] and chairman of the PRC State Planning Committee; and Liu Huaqing, vice-chairman of the PRC Central Military Commission. The minister said that the intergovernmental trade and economic agreement concluded on Thursday [5 March] grants most-favored status to both sides.

When a common package of problems was being discussed at the talks with Li Lanqing, PRC minister of foreign economic relations and trade, it was noted that there had been a decline of almost 40 percent last year in trade turnover between the two countries, "something totally abnormal." Confirmation was given of a common interest in restoring volumes of trade turnover and expanding it. To this end, Aven believes, former restrictions should be lifted, for instance the need for trade to be conducted for foreign currency, given that neither side possesses it in sufficient quantities and that the necessary banking structure is lacking. At the present stage the development of all forms of trade has to be promoted, though of course that which uses freely-convertible currency remains the most promising. The trade protocol for 1992 includes only those goods that can definitely be supplied by both sides, thus making it possible to avoid previous misunderstandings.

It looks as though we have managed this time to settle the issue of opening two Chinese shops and a Chinese trade center in Moscow. On our side, the Russian mechanical engineering industry has great potential for entering the Chinese market. In the immediate future, a delegation of directors of enterprises will visit China, and the first major Russian exhibition of industrial output will be put on there. Trade relations between Russia and China, P. Aven is convinced, "must be exceptional in all respects" owing to the great extent of the common border, the mutually complementary nature of the two economies, the historical ties and traditions of good-neighborliness between the two peoples.

The question of military-technical cooperation was also discussed. Bearing in mind the current level of political relations with the Russian side, a readiness was stated "to step up the sale of arms to China and to sell what was not sold earlier." The minister declined to be specific about precisely what kinds of weapons are meant, mentioning only the already known understanding about the sale of 24 Su-27s. The Chinese side, he added, had requested that the delivery of these aircraft should be speeded up. The Chinese intend to pay for them partly with foreign currency and partly with consumer goods. The Chinese partners also raised the question of purchasing in Russia "secondhand" An-24 and Yak-40 passenger aircraft, the fleet of which is not being used fully now owing to the shortage of fuel.

Answering a question about whether the sale of arms to Taiwan, the Chinese island governed by the Kuomintang, is being planned in the depths of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, P. Aven said: "We are not selling arms to Taiwan, and the Chinese side knows that. We have had no official talks on the subject with Taiwan. China is very important to us politically. It is true that we are thinking of new arms markets, but relations with China affect not only the economic state of affairs, but also the domestic policy situation in Russia. These arguments must outweigh everything else."

Aven Reviews PRC Trip

LD0903214992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1630 GMT 9 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Kirillov]

[Text] Beijing, 9 Mar (TASS)—The signing of a Russian-Chinese trade and economic agreement has been the main result of my visit to China, Petr Aven, Russia's minister of economic relations, said here today at a news conference when summing up the results of his five-day trip to China. This is the first treaty between our countries to define the principles of mutually beneficial relations.

He said that the negotiations with his counterpart Li Lanqing and his talks with Liu Huaqing, vice chairman of the PRC Central Military Commission, and Zou Jiahua, minister of the State Planning Commission, had been useful. New and promising areas of cooperation capable of providing a stimulus for the advanacement of economic relations as a whole had emerged in the course of the talks, all the more since the sides decided to grant each other most-favored status. Here the minister pointed out the desire of people in Russia to bring such relations into line with current realities, when it is enterprises and not the state that are becoming the main entities involved in economic activities. The protocol on trade turnover for 1992, for example, has been radically reduced—it includes only those goods that can definitely be supplied in the framework of interstate exchange.

At the same time, P. Aven emphasized that Russia considers itself the successor to treaties signed earlier with China. This is among the issues to be dealt with by the state commission on trade with China that is currently being formed. The main task for the moment is to return to the level of trade exchange of 1990, since when there has been a drop of 37 percent. This is no simple

aim, since by all accounts production in Russia will decrease this year. It is possible to overcome the negative tendency in trade by rejecting the demand for trade to be only in freely convertible currency. All forms of barter have now been allowed again, even though this is less profitable for the state.

The minister said that China will supply large consignments of fashionable clothing, foodstuffs, and consumer goods to Russia. Russian industry hopes to expand sales of machinery, including agricultural machinery. Of course, he said, we will have to compete with Western and Japanese firms both through lower prices and through mutual-profitable barter—something "that the West finds unacceptable." A large stake is being made by the Russian side on sales of arms to China. Because of falling domestic arms purchases, the minister explained, "now we are more interested than ever in selling them for export." The orientation toward friendship and cooperation with China makes it possible to declassify some products that previously were not supplied to China. These issues were discussed during the meeting with Liu Huaqing, and specific deals have already been concluded.

'Statesmanship' Seen Prevailing in PRC Ties

PM1003095192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Mar 92 p 3

[Vsevolod Ovchinnikov report under the "Viewpoint" rubric: "Will Moscow Remember Beijing?"]

[Text] Of late Russia's foreign policy has frequently been reproached for its "pro-Western slant." Following the events of August, Washington and the Atlantic capitals have indeed featured more often in the Russian diplomatic calendar than Beijing, Tokyo, or Delhi.

In recently visiting India, I think that the Kazakh president did not only his republic but the entire Commonwealth a service. The Russian president is scheduled to visit Japan in September, and our foreign minister is going there in March. But what about China? I think that the following question worries all Russians as much as me, a professional orientalist: Will Russia be able to safeguard and increase the legacy that it inherited as a result of the normalization of Sino-Soviet relations? After all, a return to military confrontation on our longest land border would indeed be ruinous for Russia in the current difficult times.

It is gratifying that the dramatic events that recently rocked our countries have not undermined the positive development of Sino-Russian relations (although there was a temptation to succumb to emotions and return to ideologized approaches). During their 31 January meeting in New York, President Yeltsin and Premier Li Peng confirmed Russia's and China's intention to continue to develop friendly, good-neighborly relations based on the joint documents of 1987 and 1991. And the key principle of both the Beijing and the Moscow communiques is noninterference in one another's internal affairs.

Even before the meeting in New York a Russian Federation Supreme Soviet delegation had visited China and had expressed a desire not to allow new differences to develop. Beijing had responded appropriately to the appointment of I. Rogachev, a former foreign minister [as published], as Russian ambassador. Rogachev comes from a long line of sinologists. This was rightly seen as emphasizing continuity and preserving the positive potential of bilateral relations.

Concrete deeds are swelling the chronicle of these relations. Recently both countries' parliaments ratified an agreement on the eastern section of the border. General V. Samsonov, chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces General Staff, paid a visit to Beijing. It was decided to develop military cooperation. China is interested in buying our combat hardware, in particular Su-27 aircraft.

Russia accounts for four-fifths of China's trade with the former USSR. That is why Beijing attaches great importance to the first Sino-Russian agreement in this sphere. P. Aven, Russian minister of foreign economic relations, will shortly be going there to sign it. There are reports that Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev may visit the Chinese capital in March too—either before or immediately after his planned visit to Tokyo. The question of a summit meeting would evidently be discussed then.

These facts do not support the assertion that Beijing has lost Moscow's attention. One can only take delight in that. It is a good thing that statesmanship has prevailed over the indiscriminate enthusiasm for criticizing any communist government. Those who reproach China's leaders with political conservatism should not forget that they have proved to be bold reformers in the economic sphere. There is no harm in copying their experience of switching to the market economy without damaging the people's welfare and political stability.

The Chinese leadership recently called for the policy of reform and openness to be prosecuted more actively, for people to borrow capitalism's strong points without fearing "pernicious Western influence," for bourgeois culture not to be rejected out of hand, and for the common achievements of mankind to be used for the good of the Chinese people. In the opinion of foreign analysts, the new political directives indicate that reformers have once again gotten the upper hand over the conservatives. This in turn could broaden Moscow's and Beijing's interest in one another's experience and thus in mutually beneficial cooperation. Let us hope that Russia does not miss the opportunity.

Views on Kuril Islands Dispute Discussed

LD0803222392

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1600 GMT on 6 March carries a 30-minute report on the Kuril Islands dispute. The report is third in

a series of interviews called "Ot Za Ot," which presents the Japanese view of the island dispute.

Correspondent Vladimir Tsvetov strings together a series of interviews with Japanese university professors, parliamentary deputies, and others who are unanimous in their belief that the islands must be returned to Japan. It is suggested that Russians are gradually coming around to the view that the islands must be returned. Fedorov, the governor of Sakhalin, who wants to hold on to them, makes some criticism.

Tsvetov notes that in 1990, during Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo before he became Russian president, Yeltsin proposed a five-stage plan for a solution to the Kuril dispute. First, the existence of a territorial dispute would be recognized by both sides. The islands would then be demilitarized. Next, they would become a free trade area. This would be followed by the conclusion of a peace treaty between Japan and Russia. Finally, in about 15-20 years, the territorial dispute itself would be resolved by a new generation of politicians. The Japanese representatives describe Yeltsin's plan as ill-prepared and defective in that it does not stipulate the eventual return of the islands to Japan.

The interviewees include the mayor of the Japanese town of Nemuro, the governor of Hokkaido, and a Japanese Foreign Ministry official, who promise substantial compensation for islanders who wish to settle elsewhere when the Kurils are returned to Japan.

Tsvetov concludes the series by saying that the sore cannot be allowed to fester forever. It must be resolved one way or the other, but definitely through negotiations.

Former Japanese Prime Minister Interviewed

LD0903221692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1840 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Interview with former Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone by correspondent Tsvetov; place and date not given; Nakasone in Japanese with superimposed Russian translation; from the "I Asked to Speak" program—recorded]

[Text] [Tsvetov] Judging by the fact that it is not the first time that you come to Moscow, you have a special interest in our country. If so, what does it consist of?

[Nakasone] Russia is a world power. It is an important neighbor of ours. The situation in Russia is complicated now, however, we very much hope that it will cope with the difficulties and that it will soon again become a major world player. In September, President Yeltsin will visit Japan. We hope that his visit will be very successful. The visit could play an important role in solving various questions, including the question of concluding a peace treaty. We would like President Yeltsin's forthcoming visit clearly to point to the direction which the course toward the treaty will take. I came to Moscow to begin preparations for the visit.

[Tsvetov] It seems to me that the current situation in Russia often reminds one of the situation that existed in Japan during the first postwar years. What do you think Russia could use as far as the Japanese experience of economic reforms is concerned?

[Nakasone] The most important thing the Japanase experience shows us is that one must not stop halfway through in implementing reforms. As they say: When you swim across the river, do not change your direction. Otherwise, everything that has been done so far will come to nought and prospects will be lost. The implementation of economic reforms in any country is bound up with a persistent process of overcoming enormous difficulties. Now what is of exceptional importance is political stability and international assistance. In order to attain political stability, the interests of the poor have to be protected. While keeping these factors in one's field of vision, one must patiently keep moving toward the goal.

[Tsvetov] Russia has been recognized as the USSR's legal successor. I would not say that the interstate relations between Japan and the former Soviet Union stood out by their special warmth. What do you think: Will these relations, not all too friendly, be bequeathed to Russia, along with Soviet-Japanese problems, or is there nevertheless hope for some progress?

[Nakasone] Unfortunately, one has to say that under the totalitarian regime, relations between our countries did not stand out by their amicability. The causes for this are on both sides alike. The situation now is different. Recently, President Yeltsin sent a letter to Japanese Prime Minister Niyazawa. In the letter the president proposed friendly partnership, relations of potential allies. We agree with this way of putting the issue. Prime Minister Niyazawa asked me to convey this to President Yeltsin. In the past, under the totalitarian system, our relations had quite a few problems, including the territorial one. It remains to this very day. The Japanese think that Russians are poorly informed about historical facts.

However, everyone makes mistakes. For instance, Stalin erroneously occupied the islands adjacent to Hokkaido, or interned 600,000 Japanese soldiers and civilians in Siberia. They had to do slave labor in a cold climate and 60,000 people lost their lives. The Japanese think that Russians do not know about that. However, the Japanese cannot forget about that. Japan feared communism and totalitarianism. That is why our relations did not always develop normally. However, of late the Russian Government has been making big efforts to improve relations and we noticed this. There already is progress in our relations. I think it is time for us to cast aside the prejudices that are a legacy of the past. The Berlin Wall has been destroyed. The division of countries between the East and the West is disappearing.

It is necessary to strive for friendly relations in perpetuity between our countries and the Russian president and the Japanese prime minister must do painstaking work in the name of this. We would like your people to

have a correct view of history and for it to proceed along a path of settling problems on the basis of laws and justice, as President Yeltsin proposes. In the former USSR, during the years when the Communist Party was in power, history was often rewritten. Incidentally, this happens in the world quite often. In Japan too, the problem of school textbooks used to arise. It is always necessary to know history. It is necessary to try and learn the truth about the historical facts that have a bearing on the territorial problem, the problem of territorial division in the light of the conclusion of a peace treaty.

[Tsvetov] Mikhail Gorbachev visited Japan as an official personage and he soon intends to make a private visit to Japan. Yeltsin only visited Japan once, and only as a private individual. Thus the score is two to one to Gorbachev and Yeltsin has to catch up with Gorbachev. Does it not seem to you that bearing in mind the nature of the relations between these two personalities and their current position in Russia's political world, would it be better if the score was to Yeltsin's benefit?

[Nakasone] Naturally, the current president, Yeltsin, will, during his coming visit to Japan, be given all the treatment commensurate with his rank, so that the visit can be concluded with a significant success. President Yeltsin shows outstanding qualities as a leader of the process of democratization of society and of transition to a market economy. It is our view that currently no one, except for President Yeltsin, is capable of attaining these goals and we support President Yeltsin, so that his program of economic reforms may be crowned with success. It is the position of most Japanese, and I am one of them.

President Gorbachev began the current process in Russia and one cannot forget his contribution. He now, however, has a different role. President Yeltsin, as the Russian leader in power, will visit Japan bearing the responsibility for improving the Russian-Japanese relations precisely at a time when these relations began to improve. We hope that the September visit will be a fruitful one. We must achieve a breakthrough. I think that President Yeltsin is sufficiently resolved to do it. I had a meeting with Yeltsin during this current visit. He said that by the end of our century the problems would be solved. We, too, will endeavor to facilitate this.

[Tsvetov] Once in Japan, in some public building, we had an accidental meeting in an elevator and I asked you a question: Do you intend to become the prime minister? You then gave an enigmatic laugh and evaded an answer and soon came to head the government. If now I ask you the very same question, will you again burst out laughing and evade an answer, or will the reply be more concrete? So, do you want, do you intend again to become Japan's prime minister?

[Nakasone] No, what do you mean, I did not take any evasive action. It is simply that by nature I am a shy person and it was not easy for me to give you a direct answer, believe me. I am glad we meet again. I must say, however, that in our country we have as many prime ministerial hopefuls as clouds in the sky. Capable people appear one after another. I think that Japan will not have a crisis situation that would compel me again to head the government. I am confident that the new, capable people, are doing a good job being in charge of the country's policies and that they will manage to improve relations with Russia.

[Tsvetov] Well, thank you very much. I am grateful to you for this conversation.

Japanese Prime Minister Supports Yeltsin

LD0903225692 Moscow TASS in English 1611 GMT 9 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 TASS—In a meeting with current Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, former Japanese Prime-Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone spoke in favour of his country's support of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's administration, the "KYODO TSUSHIN" information agency announced today.

Nakasone informed the governmental party's leader about his recent visit to Moscow and his meeting with the Russian president there. Nakasone emphasised, that the course of support of Boris Yeltsin's administration is correct, as there is no other leader able to handle the current precarious situation in Russia. Miyazawa shared this point of view.

Results of Kozyrev's RSA Visit Examined

PM0903131192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 7

[Correspondent Maksim Yusin article: "Russian Diplomacy Opens Up South Africa, Although We Should Not Expect Any Sudden Upswing in Our Relations with Pretoria"]

[Text] "If someone had told me five years ago that I would welcome the Russian foreign minister to our capital, I would have laughed in his face. How quickly everything changes in this world!" These were the words with which Roelof Botha, head of South African diplomacy, greeted Andrey Kozyrev 27 February. A mere 24 hours later, the ministers signed an agreement to establish full diplomatic relations between Russia and South Africa. The interest sections in Moscow and Pretoria will become embassies. In addition to this, consulates will be opened in Cape Town and St. Petersburg.

As expected, the first-ever visit to South Africa by a Russian foreign minister was a complete success. The 36-year pause in our relations with the richest country in Africa is now over. A new era has begun. What will it bring?

Diplomats who accompanied Kozyrev on his visit are not euphoric. In their opinion, there is unlikely to be a sudden upswing in Russian-South African relations in the near future. We have lived in total isolation from one another for too long. Now we have to start virtually from

scratch. It will take years to establish full political and economic ties, especially because both countries are preoccupied with their own domestic problems. We have been living through a period of upheaval for a long time now and apparently are even beginning to get used to the situation. As far as South Africa is concerned, the most serious ordeals still lie ahead. No one knows where de Klerk's reforms will lead or what kind of regime will be established in the country. But everyone—or almost everyone—realizes that there is no going back.

"One of the main conclusions I drew during my visit is that de Klerk and his team are firmly resolved to go ahead. There will be no return to apartheid," Andrey Kozyrev said on his flight back to Moscow, summing up the results of his African tour. The domestic political situation in South Africa was the central topic in the Russian minister's talks with Frederik de Klerk and Roelof Botha.

Russia Counting on de Klerk in the "White Camp"

Russia has apparently made its choice in the multihued mosaic of South African political forces. We are counting on de Klerk in the "white camp." There is nothing surprising about this. The ruling National Party began the process of dismantling apartheid, so the reforms can only be carried through to their conclusion if it remains in power during the transitional period. "We support de Klerk's policy," Andrey Kozyrev confirmed in a conversation on board his aircraft. "It is no accident that the restoration of diplomatic relations has been announced now, when the South African president is going through a difficult time and a foreign policy success would not go amiss."

African National Congress Still the Mouthpiece of Black South African Interests in Moscow's Eyes

The situation is less clear-cut in the black camp. Totally in the spirit of Soviet diplomacy, Russian diplomacy continues to focus exclusively on the African National Congress (ANC) and its leader Nelson Mandela. In his statements at the press conference and at the government reception in his honor, Kozyrev persistently made the point that Moscow recognizes Mandela and the ANC as expressing the interests of the black majority.

This is despite the fact that the ANC mainly unites representatives of the Xhosa people—by no means the largest in South Africa. According to official statistics, there are some 3 million Xhosa in the country. There is a big gap between them and the Zulus, who rank first with a population of 7.6 million. Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the largest Zulu organization, the Inkatha Freedom Party, is a hardline opponent of Mandela and the ANC. According to one Russian diplomat—a specialist on Africa—"Buthelezi and Mandela hate each other more than de Klerk." This diplomat believes that, unless the Zulus' interests are taken into account, any agreement reached by the whites and the ANC is doomed to fail. Nevertheless, Russia ignored Inkatha during Kozyrev's visit. There were no contacts with its representatives.

Mandela, on the other hand, was given maximum attention. In order to meet him, Kozyrev undertook a 52-km "forced march" from Pretoria to Johannesburg, where the ANC has its headquarters. Everything was done to ensure that Mandela did not interpret the establishment of diplomatic relations with a regime which, in his eyes, is still racist and illegal as a withdrawal of support for those fighting apartheid. Prior to the meeting with Mandela, our diplomats stubbornly refused to say (in public, at least) whether diplomatic relations would be established with Pretoria. Although it was no secret to anyone why the visit had been undertaken, Kozyrev only officially announced the restoration of relations after his talk with Nelson Mandela.

Mandela Unenthusiastic About Restoration of Diplomatic Relations Between Russia and South Africa

Once again, Moscow stressed that such an important decision could not be made without prior consultation with the ANC and its leader. Tribute was paid to established tradition, however, the step taken by Russian diplomacy did not arouse any enthusiasm in Mandela. Admittedly, he did not criticize Russia's decision during a meeting with journalists after his talk with Kozyrev. Only the South African Communist Party openly condemned the decision. Moscow remained indifferent to the opinion of its former ally. "We are used to listening to advice from Communists and doing exactly the opposite," Kozyrev remarked in this context.

As far as the leaders in Pretoria are concerned, they were perfectly calm about Kozyrev's contacts with the ANC. They could hardly have hoped that Moscow's friendship with this organization would cease overnight. Besides, South Africa's leaders have derived maximum benefit from Kozyrev's visit. Diplomatic relations have been restored. Russia has abandoned its unequivocal orientation toward the ANC and declared its support for "all democratic forces in South Africa," including the white reformers.

On the eve of the 17 March referendum, in which South Africa's white inhabitants must express their attitude to de Klerk's policy, the president has earned extra points: Thanks to his reforms, the country is finally coming out of isolation.

Virtually No Outstanding Differences on Regional Problems

There are now virtually no serious differences between the two states which, until recently, were uncompromising ideological and political opponents. Kozyrev's visit has confirmed a trend observed in recent months: The new Russia and the new South Africa find a common language fairly easily in their approach to regional problems. By abandoning its struggle for spheres of influence in Africa and gradually scaling down its

presence in the dark continent, Moscow no longer poses a threat to Pretoria's interests.

Both countries are switching their attention to the economy. The potential for cooperation is vast. The fact that South Africa and Russia could determine world prices for diamonds and, to a considerable extent, for gold by pooling their efforts and coordinating their policies has been much discussed and written about. If that does happen, however, it can only be a fairly remote prospect. Economic cooperation is only just beginning to be established. Considering the geographical distance between Russia and South Africa, it is hard to count on large-scale capital investment in our economy by South African businessmen. Although de Klerk did not rule out the possibility of giving Russia credits in the future, this seems unlikely at present.

Despite South Africa's economic might, its potential cannot be compared to that of the EC, United States, and Japan. Moreover, Pretoria has at least a dozen poor neighbors close by, whose economy needs urgent injections of cash and is traditionally geared to business with South Africa.

The vague hopes of credit and economic aid from South Africa which appeared on the eve of Kozyrev's visit have not been realized. Nor, probably, could they be realized. One way or another, Russia is still on the periphery of South Africa's interests. For us too, cooperation with South Africa is unlikely to become a priority aspect of foreign policy in the foreseeable future.

Trade Development, Role in EC Discussed

PM0903102792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 92 First Edition p 6

[Interview with Vladislav Sorokin, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry International Economic Relations Administration, by correspondent Sergey Semendyayev; place and date not given: "Credits Are Also Politics"]

[Text] The International Economic Relations Administration has been part of the Foreign Ministry system for a very long time. Eduard Shevardnadze devoted particular attention to this area of work. The situation has now changed, however. Russia's new foreign policy demands a different approach to dealing with foreign economic problems. Vladislav Sorokin, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry International Economic Relations Administration, answered questions from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

[Semendyayev] Vladislav Grigoryevich, how would you describe the administration's new tasks?

[Sorokin] They are mainly dictated by our domestic problems and needs. First, in order to successfully implement economic reform in Russia, we need to create favorable conditions outside the country. Consequently, Russia and its economic diplomacy must become involved in the work of international economic organizations such as the IMF, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, GATT, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and so forth. That would allow us to count on their assistance in the near future in the form of credit on preferential terms, economic expertise, and technical assistance. Second, we must help to attract foreign investment in our economy. Third, we must encourage Russia to become an equal member of the European community [Yevropeyskoye coobshchestvo].

[Semendyayev] How do you see Russia's role in the EEC?

[Sorokin] We could form an association with the EC in two ways. On the one hand, by gradually bringing its economic mechanism into line with EC requirements, Russia could become a real, independent participant in the international division of labor and hold a worthy place on the continent and in the world. But that will be a very long process. On the other hand, a project to create a European continental market involving all European countries is now being actively discussed. This association is being created for the future, with a view to subsequently merging East and West Europe and leveling out their economic development.

[Semendyayev] Rephrasing a well-known aphorism, you could say that diplomacy is only as strong as its home support. Do you believe that the success of Russian diplomats depends to a considerable extent on the internal situation in the country?

[Sorokin] Without a doubt. We speak a different economic language to our foreign partners. The backwardness of our technology is legendary, and the low level of our industrial output prevents us from using efficient foreign machine tools and equipment. There is still enormous confusion with legislation, and foreign investors quite rightly complain about this. Business in any country is primarily concerned with firm legal guarantees to protect its invested capital. Naturally, in addition to economic stability, an important role is played by political stability—which is something else we cannot guarantee at the moment.

[Semendyayev] Recent presidential decrees and resolutions issued by the Russian Government have given a strong boost to the process of demonopolizing Russia's foreign economic relations. Private entrepreneurs are now active on the foreign market alongside state enterprises. Does your administration take account of this factor in its work?

[Sorokin] Naturally, we have long been cooperating closely with representatives of the new wave of entrepreneurs in Russian industry. Our administration has set up a special department responsible for these matters. We are helping our businessmen to make business contacts in the West, familiarizing them with the rules of the foreign market, and helping them to arrange trips abroad. Incidentally, the Russian president was accompanied on his visits to Germany and France by a large group of Russian businessmen, and it could not be said that this trip—organized by our administration—was totally futile from their point of view.

St. Petersburg Cuban-Bound Goods Held Back

LD0903124692 St Petersburg Maritime Press Service in Russian 1400 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak has issued an appendix to his instruction of 17 January "on the sale of cargoes in the maritime port." A. Yevdokimov, the manager of the Lenvneshtrans enterprise, has been charged with submitting an inventory of cargoes bound for Cuba which have been removed from export within 15 days. This primarily concerns goods of the foreign trade associations Promsyryeimport, Selkhozpromeksport and Traktoreksport.

The St. Petersburg maritime mercantile port has been ordered to transfer all Cuban-bound cargoes for sale and mutual settlements [vzaimoraschetov] with the cargo owners, purchasers, and the main supply administration. It has been determined that these cargoes can be issued to enterprises of the country, city, and oblast only with the permission of the working group.

Germany Allocates Money for Russian Conversion

PM0903123592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 7

[Report by Yevgeniy Bovkun: "Germany Allocates 10 Billion Marks for Conversion in Russia"]

[Text] Bonn—Russia will be able to make a major currency order to the sum of 10 billion German marks [DM]. For this money FRG firms will have to retool a number of our military plants for the production of civilian output. This became known during the first session of the Russian-German consultative council, which has ended in Bonn.

A group of experts headed by Russian Economy Minister Andrey Nechayev took part in the work of the council on our side. Well known managers headed by Dieter von Wuerzen, state secretary at the Bonn Ministry of Economic Affairs, were present.

Of course, it is a case of credit funds. It is true that the "Hermes" society, responsible for issuing guarantees for credits, is prepared to far to guarantee only DM5 billion of this sum, since the projects in question need to be checked. The Russian delegation was informed of this decision by Lorenz Schomerus, leader of the Ministry of Economic Affairs foreign economic department.

The reason for the decision to restrict credits was essentially our own sluggishness—as is well known, many credits have remained unused. In addition great complications with their acquisition arose in connection with our nonfulfillment of our payment commitments to German firms.

Russia will not cope with the financial difficulties by unilateral efforts. It will need help from the industrially developed Western countries and international economic and financial organizations, believes Otto Wolff von Amerongen, chairman of the Eastern committee of the German economy, who took part in the consultative council session. In his opinion, to attract foreign firms to take part in the process of market perestroyka, Russia should create the necessary conditions.

As for the credits allocated, there are already several specific projects involving their use. In particular it has become known that one German firm has suggested a project providing for the production of consumer goods at former tank plants. In addition, the enterprises which this company plans to retool will also produce rubber goods, gas cylinders, and small trucks.

German Firm Supplies Mothers With Baby Food

LD0903165392 Moscow TASS in English 1148 GMT 7 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandras budris]

[Text] Moscow, March 7 TASS— Five hundred young mothers in the Russian capital will receive 15-kilogram sets of dried vitamin-fortified baby food mixtures today. This charity action is being carried out by the German Petermax Muller car-selling firm.

Representatives of the firm had contacted in advance four Moscow maternity homes and established a direct contact with future recipients of the humanitarian aid, Olga Komarova, a departmental chief at the Soviet-Austrian joint venture service Wang, which distributes the aid, told ITAR-TASS.

The company intends to distribute baby foods in three stages until infants attain the age of two. The young mothers will get subsequent parcels in July-August this year.

UK Businessmen Agree on Aid to Energy Sector

OW1003032692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1809 GMT 9 Mar 92

[From the "Interfax Business Report:" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Britain's State Secretary for Energy John Wakehamstated at a briefing in Moscow said that the delegation of British businessmen which he headed, had succeeded in reaching an agreement with the Russian government on issues concerning the development of a broad program of technical aid for the energy sector in Russian industry. Mr. Wakeham's delegation was made up of representatives from British Petroleum, British Gas Exploration and Production, the Association of British Mining Equipment and representatives from banking and financial circles.

The results of the British delegation's trip to Western Siberia, more specifically to the Tyumen region, are seen in the decision to create a Russian-British "Know-How" fund. The fund's goal is to help develop the energy and oil drilling industry in Western Siberia. An agreement was also reached on sending a British technical delegation to the Tyumen region to more concisely determine

the possible volume of investments in the oil drilling and petrochemical industries in Western Siberia and in other regions of Russia. Even at this stage, the John Brown company intends to create a joint investment company in the Tyumen region.

Commentary on Memorandum Sent To IMF

PM0603153592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Mar 92 First Edition p 1

[Sergey Seninskiy of AEN "BIZNES-FAKT" "Commentary:" "Standard Range of Measures"]

[Text] This was how K. Kagalovskiy, the government's plenipotentiary representative for cooperation with international financial organizations and the government's economic adviser, described at a 2 March news conference the essence of the Russian Federation Government's memorandum which will be sent to the IMF in the next few days in the hope of financial assistance from the West.

THE PRICES OF ENERGY CARRIERS WILL BE SET FREE AS EARLY AS APRIL. According to K. Kagalovskiy, the full liberalization of the prices of all types of output should be expected within the very near future. The prices of baby food and medical supplies, whose production will still be subsidized for a while, rents, transport tariffs for passenger journeys, and also the gas and electricity tariffs for the public will constitute the exception. True, the latter will undoubtedly be increased with the freeing of prices of energy carriers, but at the same time they will remain under state control.

It is planned to introduce free prices for energy carriers "at the end of the cold season," i.e. in April. A more precise date was not reported, although AEN [ECONOMIC NEWS AGENCY] possesses data to the effect that the price liberalization might begin 15 April and that the prices of oil for sale on the domestic market might be set at the level of $40 a tonne, or the equivalent in rubles at the current currency exchange rate.

According to A. Mozhin, head of the department for cooperation with international financial organizations, who participated in the news conference, the government program forecasts the price of oil at 2,000-2,500 rubles [R] a tonne. The government evidently makes its optimistic forecast on the basis of the ruble's present rate of exchange against the dollar. However, following a protracted fall in the exchange rate, last week the dollar again began to rise in price—which makes the preliminary assessments of government experts very dubious.

The action program provides for an increase in the export quotas for oil and petroleum products by means of a reduction in the volumes of their internal consumption, which is initially expected to be 10 to 15 percent of today's level. If this level now stands at an average of 350 million tonnes a year, then a further 30-35 million tonnes of oil can be exported in addition to the already set quota of 60 million tonnes. Virtually confirming this assumption by the AEN correspondent, it was pointed out by A. Mozhin that, first, additional quotas will be sold off at auction and, second, export tariffs will continue to cover the difference between internal oil prices and world market prices. In other words, free oil prices will reign only within Russia, while the top oil export quota will, as now, be rigidly regulated by the government. In addition, simultaneously with the setting free of the prices of energy carriers, a new tax on their sales will be introduced.

THE FATE OF MONOPOLIST ENTERPRISES: THE CHIEF THING IS NOT TO GET CAUGHT. The government program provides for the almost complete abandonment of any state regulation of enterprises' activities, with the exception of cases of "natural monopoly." However, the president's recent decrees and the government resolution aimed at "stabilizing the work of industry in 1992" provide for a whole range of fiscal measures in respect of monopolist enterprises, even including the compulsory maintenance of economic ties and the state order and the sale of some output at state regulated prices. Answering the AEN correspondent's question as to how to match their provisions with the memorandum, K. Kagalovskiy pointed out that the said documents are, rather, of a declarative nature. They apply to cases where an enterprise is "caught" behaving like a monopoly.

FIXED CURRENCY RATE OF EXCHANGE FOR THE RUBLE BY THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER? The government's plans include the introduction of a single fixed ruble exchange rate both for current transactions and for the movement of capital. The desired level is R25-30 to the dollar, which, in K. Kagalovskiy's opinion, "would be perfectly comparable with the coefficient of purchasing power" of Russians. Government experts see the task as perfectly feasible even by the middle of this summer or even sooner, if a stabilization rate of exchange for the ruble is created via the IMF to the tune of $5-6 billion.

DO NOT RELY ON TAX CONCESSIONS—THIS IS FUTILE. According to K. Kagalovskiy, the government will continue to pursue a tough line of removing "numerous tax concessions." It is also planned to make foreign and Russian entrepreneurs fully equal in this respect. Most of the tax concessions recently submitted for examination are expected to be eliminated.

The program provides for a single rate of value added tax to be maintained at 28 percent for all goods, including imports. The system of excise duties will also be extended to imports. In this way the tax base itself will be broadened and will also include other new types of taxes on individual goods.

Federation Affairs

Decree on Jurisdiction of Troops Issued

PM0903175592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Mar 92 First Edition p 5

[Decree of the Russian Federation President "On the Transfer of Military Formations on the Territory of

Germany, the Polish Republic, Mongolia, and the Republic of Cuba to Russian Federation Jurisdiction," dated 4 March 1992, The Kremlin, Moscow, and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] In order to maintain stable command and control and safeguard the functioning of the forces, and also provide social protection for servicemen, members of their families, and workers and employees of the former USSR Armed Forces on the territory of Germany, the Polish Republic, Mongolia, and the Republic of Cuba, I order that:

1. The military units, combined units, large strategic formations, institutions, enterprises, organizations, and other military command and control organs temporarily on the territory of the aforementioned foreign states be transferred to Russian Federation jurisdiction.

2. For the period until the formation of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry the formations mentioned in point 1 of this decree are to come under the commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces of the CIS.

3. The activities of the military units, combined units, large strategic formations, institutions, enterprises, organizations, and other military command and control organs temporarily on the territory of Germany, the Polish Republic, Mongolia, and the Republic of Cuba are to be financed from the Russian Federation budget.

4. Colonel General Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev is to be appointed Russian Federation agent for matters pertaining to the temporary presence and withdrawal of forces from the territory of Germany, the Polish Republic, Mongolia, and the Republic of Cuba,

5. The decrees enters into effect the moment it is signed.

Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin.

The Kremlin, Moscow, 4 March 1992, No 248.

Yeltsin To Attend Conference of Public Forces

LD0903201892 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1900 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] President of Russia Boris Yeltsin has agreed to participate in the conference of public forces scheduled for 15 March. The conference will be held at the initiative of the People's Party of Free Russia and the Russian Democratic Party. Aleksandr Rutskoy and Nikolay Travkin, their respective leaders, and other well known political figures will take part in the forum's work. Ruslan Khasbulatov, head of the Russian Parliament, has also been invited to the conference. This was reported by INTERFAX.

Yeltsin's Rural 'Harvest' Decrees Viewed

PM1003110192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Article by Valeriy Konovalov: "It Has Been Decreed: You Shall Sow and Harvest"]

[Text] Another two decrees of the Russian president have been published, linked to the problems of the rural economy.

One of them supplements the already quite impressive package of agrarian reform documents. The function of this decree is to put in order the process of transferring land plots to citizens' ownership. In particular it specifies the procedure for determining the average rayon land norm to be handed over free of charge. And most important the rural rayons' local administration heads have now been granted the right to establish in a differentiated way, depending on population density, different land norms for different zones within the rayon. I recall that delegates of the individual farmers' congress and the collective farm congress recently persistently suggested adopting such a clause. So that there is complete agreement with the president and the government here among different rural structures.

And in general it is a working, instructive document which merely develops previously adopted documents and in terms of its significance does not reach the status of a presidential decree.

The other decree is on measures to organize the 1992 spring sowing and harvest—seems at odds with the general structure of agrarian form so reminiscent is it of the previous unvarying party and government presowing resolutions: the same measures, the same vocabulary. But what can you do—it is indeed difficult as yet to do without some kind of "flap" in our situation. The reserves of agricultural resources are too meager for bold maneuvers.

For instance, it may be hoped that the future market will optimize the crop structure and the specialization of regions. But here temporary fluctuations are inevitable and they may lead to the point where the countryside remains without a stock of seeds and breeding stock, so that there will be nothing to optimize.

That is why attempts to regulate processes in the most urgent situations are entirely understandable. How far these attempts are feasible and what material backup they have is another matter. The decree directs, for instance, "not allowing a reduction of sown areas in the process of the farms' reform," but how this is to be done, what mechanism there might be, is not clear.

Many such questions arise when you read the decree. After all what are in principle familiar measures are envisaged but the conditions for their implementation are completely different from before. The decree also discusses enlisting the aid of the city—with manpower and equipment—allocating to the countryside the necessary quantity of transport facilities, spare parts, and fuel, and giving priority to credits to rural inhabitants for the period of the sowing and the harvest and providing currency backup for harvest work... Under the conditions of the tough administrative system there was at least the mechanism for implementing such measures. Now it is many times more complex to implement them.

But there are also grounds for a certain optimism. After all it is primarily a case of a transitional moment when elements of the new mechanisms are already gradually starting to be included in matters. And emergency administrative measures can be effective in combination with economic incentives. The government has succeeded in creating a sufficient stock of fuel for the first stage of the sowing campaign. The sowing of the winter crops was also successful and they have wintered quite well and only a little will have to be resown. And if we are also lucky with the weather, then the peasants will have a good chance of fulfilling the president's decree: not only sowing but also bringing in the harvest.

Primorye Administration Powers To Be Expanded

LD0903193392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1517 GMT 7 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Moscow [dateline as received]—On March 5 Russian President Boris Yeltsin transferred to the consideration of the Russian Supreme Soviet the draft decree "on the implementation of the major Vladivostok project" expanding the powers of territorial administration. The principal feature of the project is the power of the administration head of the Primorye territory to use state property, natural and other resources of the Primorye territory ("major Vladivostok") as a mortgage for foreign investments.

According to preliminary assessment, the mortgage value of the resources and of state property in the territory may amount to 200 billion [currency not specified]. According to Vladimir Kuznetsov, administration head of Primoriye territory, even 10 percent of the value will be enough to guarantee the foreign capital invested into the economy of Major Vladivostok. The draft decree of the president "on the implementation of the major Vladivostok project in the Primorye territory" also includes the right of the administration head, on agreement with the ministries, to dismiss and employ heads of enterprises and organizations, to set beneficial taxes, insurance conditions, customs and hard currency operation modes, to specify beneficial order of setting up and registering of enterprises, banks and other organizations with foreign investments up to RB [Ruble] 100 million. According to Kuznetsov, Yeltsin decided to sign the decree only after it is approved in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

Decree on Rehabilitation of Germans Published

PM0903142592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Mar 92 First Edition p 1

[Decree No. 231 of the Russian Federation president "On Urgent Measures To Rehabilitate Russian Germans," dated Moscow, the Kremlin, 21 February 1992 and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] For the purposes of realizing the RSFSR Law of 26 April 1991 "On the Rehabilitation of Repressed Peoples" and creating the necessary conditions for the national development and the restoration of the statehood of Russian Germans, I resolve:

1. Urgent measures for the rehabilitation and the phased restoration of the statehood of Russian Germans within the Russian Federation are to be implemented at the suggestion of the Russian Federation State Committee for Nationalities Policy, other state organs of power and management, and also public organizations of Russian Germans.

As the first stage, without infringing the interests of the local population and with due regard for the experience of creating German national rayons in Altay Kray and Omsk Oblast, it is to be deemed expedient to form:

a German national okrug on the territory of Volgograd Oblast;

a German national rayon on the territory of Saratov Oblast.

2. The Russian Federation Government is to:

form, on a representation from the Russian Federation State Committee for Nationalities Policy and the administrations of Volgograd and Saratov Oblasts, an Organizational Committee to examine questions and prepare proposals connected with the formation of a German national okrug in Volgograd Oblast and a German national rayon in Saratov Oblast and with the restoration of the statehood of Russian Germans, including on it representatives of the interested sides;

examine proposals from organs of power and administration in Volgograd and Saratov Oblasts and in other krays and oblasts and from public organizations of Russian Germans on the creation of national rayons and national village soviets in places with a compact population of Russian Germans, with regard for the opinion of the local population, for their submission to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium for approval;

form the Russian part of the Russian-German Intergovernmental Commission to prepare a joint program of measures aimed at ensuring the phased restoration of the statehood of Russian Germans.

3. The Russian Federation State Committee for Nationalities Policy, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Press and Information, the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice, the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, and the administrations of krays and oblasts are to carry out the necessary explanatory work in connection with the fulfillment of this decree.

B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation 21 February 1992.

Decrees Form New Bodies, Appoint Officials

PM0903141992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Mar 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Appointments"]

[Text] By a decree of the Russian Federation president Valeriy Aleksandrovich Tishkov has been appointed chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Nationality Policy and Russian Federation minister.

By a decree of the Russian Federation president an Enterprise Council under the Russian Federation president has been set up. Its formation was prompted by the need to create the conditions conducive to the involvement of Russia's entrepreneurial circles in the process of implementing economic reforms and measures to support entrepreneurial activity in the Russian Federation. The council will operate as an expert consultative organ.

By a decree of the Russian Federation president a Council for Analyzing Critical Situations and Draft Government Decisions under the Russian Federation president has been set up. Academician Nikita Nikolayevich Moiseyev has been appointed its chairman.

Industry Minister Speaks on Economic Decline

LD1003064292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0400 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] In the first three quarters of 1992 the sharp drop in industrial output in Russia will continue. This is the forecast of Russian Industry Minister Aleksandr Titkin. The low point of the recession will be in the third quarter of 1992. In the fourth quarter there will be some increase in output. The decline will be especially great in the mechanical engineering, metallurgy, and high technology sectors, the minister noted.

The situation in the defense industry is very serious. This industry suffers an acute lack of major projects to load existing capacities. Until Russia approximates prices of natural resources to world prices its economy will not normalize and the ruble will not become convertible, Titkin stresses. In his opinion, liberalization of prices of energy carriers will be a heavy blow to industry as a whole, but without it the outflow of raw materials abroad cannot not be stopped. There is also the problem of the corruption of officials on whom exports depend.

A document is now being drafted providing for certain tax concessions to commercial structures contributing funds to industrial production, Titkin said. Owing to high taxation, these commercial structures prefer to invest not in industry but in commerce.

Confirms Continued Arms Sales

LD0903212292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 9 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] In the near future a decree will be issued by the Russian president on tax allowances for those investing in Russian industry. Aleksandr Titkin, the Russian minister of industry, reported in Moscow today that the decree will be signed as soon as the president returns to Moscow.

It is a question of creating the most favorable climate for long-term domestic and foreign investments in Russian industry. According to the draft prepared, investments in all structures, irrespective of the forms of ownership including private enterprises, which facilitate the development of Russian industry, will be partially or even completely relieved from taxes.

Answering journalists' questions, the minister noted that the stir in the West regarding possible mass sales of arms from Russian plants to the world's hot spots was above all aroused by those who are afraid of competition on the part of Russian armorers. The minister confirmed Russia's intention to continue to sell arms, but he stressed its readiness to do everything possible so that these arms will not reach conflict zones both inside the CIS and outside it. The minister believes that the fall in production in Russia will last no longer than the fourth quarter.

Explains Tax Free Investment Strategy

OW0903191792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian president will shortly issue a decree to give tax benefits to investors in Russian industry. Russian Industry Minister Aleksandr Titkin said at a Monday [9 March] news conference in Moscow that the decree would be signed "as soon as the president returns to Moscow." "We have already received the approval of the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium and all the relevant bodies," said Titkin.

The tax exemption is meant to create a favorable climate to attract domestic and foreign investments in the Russian industry. Under the project, investments from all structures, irrespective of the form of ownership and including private businesses, in Russian industry will enjoy a full or partial tax exemption.

Titkin said that the importance of foreign investment in this country's industry is quite exaggerated and expressed assurance that the Russian business circles had accumulated large money reserves, including foreign-exchange stocks.

Asked by the press, the minister said that the hype in western media concerning the possibility of massive Russian weapons sales to assorted flashpoints on the masterminded primarily by those who fear competition from Russian weapons makers. [sentence as received] The minister reiterated Russia's intention to go on with arms sales but emphasized readiness to take every effort to prevent Russian weapons from reaching flashpoints within and outside the CIS.

Denies Involvement in Kolo Affair

LD0903183492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 9 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] At a news conference today Russian Industry Minister Aleksandr Titkin refuted the allegations by the press that he was the official orchestrator of the Kolo joint-stock company affair, which was exposed by the Russian Government as a classic example of privatization by nomenklatura functionaries. The minister confirmed that he signed the [company's constituent] documents, since he sees nothing suspicious in using the defense sector's surplus capacities to create new industries. However, he accused Kolo's organizers of poor practice, in that they changed the line-up of the company's investors without notifying him by bringing in certain persons, including former CPSU Central Committee officials, televison boss Kravchenko, and others. The minister said he hoped that the procuracy will definitively clear him of involvement in this affair.

Titkin predicted a further drop in production, to reach its low point in the third quarter of this year but to stabilize and even rise in the fourth quarter. He declared war on all concerns and associations hastily set up by former ministries and government departments to hide their true nature. Most of them are lining their pockets by selling their own soul and Russia's raw materials abroad. Titkin considers that today's main task is to restructure all industry and only then privatize it.

Arms exports, including those to volatile regions, should be put under the control of a commission on military and technical cooperation. Nonetheless, the danger of such exports remains: Arms procurements from defense-sector factories have fallen by eight times and unless we search for new military markets ourselves, said the minister, leaks are quite likely to happen.

Predicts Personnel Cuts

LD0903211792 Moscow TASS in English 1624 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 9 TASS—The production decline will continue in the first three quarters of the year in Russia and may slow down only at the end of the year, Aleksandr Titkin, Russian minister of industry, said at a news conference on Monday [9 March].

He said the government plans large-scale privatisation of the light and food industries this year. It is also developing a programme to convert defence enterprises to civilian uses.

Titkin stressed the programme will allow enterprises to sack up to 20 per cent of their personnel without affecting their production level.

He said the decision to free prices of fuel is promoted by the need to stop uncontrolled exports of oil from Russia.

Price Ceiling on Certain Foodstuffs Lifted

LD0703211792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1922 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, 7 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Federation Government today adopted a decision on amending the procedure for setting prices on individual types of consumer goods. Below follows its text:

With the aim of further developing market relations and filling the consumer market, the Russian Federation Government resolves:

1. To grant the bodies of executive authority of the republics within the Russian Federation, of the krays, oblasts, autonomous formations, and of the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, the right to abolish the limiting coefficients on price increases established by the Russian Federation Government decision of 19 December 1991 No. 55 (appendix No. 2) on bread, milk, fermented cow's milk, skimmed cottage cheese, sugar, salt, vegetable oil and matches.

2. To recommend that executive bodies in the republics of the Russian Federation, in krays, oblasts, autonomous entities, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, use the local budget resources released as a result of price deregulation on these types of produce to top up regional social security funds. They should bear in mind that these resources are to be used specifically to support the most socially vulnerable sections of the population. They should also make provision in their budgets for subsidies to be paid to bakery enterprises for the principal types of bread.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin

Cosmos-2181 Navigational Satellite Launched

LD1003074192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0720 GMT 10 Mar 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Another artificial earth satellite in the "Cosmos" series was launched today from Plesetsk cosmodrome.

The satellite "Cosmos-2181" is designated for work as part of the "Tsikada" space navigation system, which enables ships of the merchant navy and fishing fleet to determine their position at any point of the world's oceans.

The satellite has been placed in an orbit with the following parameters: initial period of revolution 105 mins; apogee 1,027 km; perigee 994 km; orbital inclination 82.9 degrees.

The apparatus aboard the satellite is working normally.

'Rebellious' Commander Threatens Border Opening

LD0903221492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 9 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The KONTAKT Agency in Murmansk has reported that the chief of a border outpost on the Kola Peninsula has threatened to open the border with Norway and to switch off the alarm system if the Russian Government refuses to satisfy his demands. The KONTAKT Agency, however, does not specify the nature of his demands.

Anyway, the command of the Northwest Border District, in the person of Major General (Vyunov), has confirmed that the rebellious captain is in charge of a 15-kilometer stretch of border.

Creation of Defense Ministry, Army Urged

LD0903150192 Moscow TASS in English 1415 GMT 9 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow March 9—"It is long since time for Russia to create its own defence ministry and its armed forces. We have delayed such a decision for too long", believes Major-General of Aviation Aleksander Tsalko, deputy chairman of the Russian State Committee for Defence.

In an interview to ITAR-TASS, Tsalko said that there is no one in Russia to supervise the country's defence at present, since the Russian State Committee for Defence is not a managerial body. As a result, about half a million people in military uniforms on Russian territory are virtually "unlooked-after", General Tsalko said.

The general said it is unclear who supervises the work of the military commissariats that in the past represented the interest of the Union Defence Ministry and soviets in the provinces. No one is now responsible for military property, the movable property and real property, which should bear state status. A considerable part of military equipment, leased lands, buildings and other property on Russian territory in the past controlled by the USSR Defence Ministry now virtually belongs to no one.

Tsalko believes the absence of the Russian army and Defence Ministry is leading to the further disintegration of the Commonwealth. "Only a strong state with its own armed forces can play a consolidating role. Such a state commands respect. Other states seek to form alliances with it", he said.

The Russian armed forces should be in keeping with Russia's abilities. That is, they should not be a burden on the economy. They should be mobile and ready to arrive at a destination promptly and fulfil the given assignment. The general believes their numerical strength should not exceed one million.

Military Conversion Could Take 5-7 Years

LD0603121392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Some 150 billion rubles will be needed to convert military production in Russia, and it will take 5-7 years. This was stated in an interview with the newspaper RADIKAL by Mikhail Bazhanov, chairman of the committee for conversion. According to Bazhanov, the government was too hasty in making sharp cuts in armaments expenditure since this cannot provide any rapid gain. Bazhanov thinks that the defense industry is on the verge of collapse. It is the only industrial complex that has not yet fallen apart and is able to produce goods for the people.

Intelligence Agents Overseas To Be Reduced

LD0603221892 Moscow TASS in English 2100 GMT 6 Mar 92

[By CRIME PRESS correspondent Pavel Ovchinnikov]

[Text] Moscow March 6 TASS—"We will have as many Russian agents abroad as it is necessary for the fulfilment of tasks our service has. However, their number will be less than we had, for instance, last year," head of the Russian external intelligence service's press bureau Yuriy Kobaladze told CRIME PRESS, commenting on pronouncements of some Western politicians.

The politicians are concerned with allegedly increased activities of the Russian intelligence.

For instance, FBI Director William Sessions accused Russian agents of enhancing the collection of secret information and recruiting agents in the U.S. governmental circles. Former U.S. arms negotiator Paul Nitze agreed with Sessions.

Despite changes in east European countries, State Minister in the German Federal Chancellor's Office Bernd Schmidbauer is against any reductions of the federal intelligence service.

In the words of Kobaladze "The Russian intelligence staff is now being reduced both in the center and abroad—throughout the world," including the United States, Italy, Sweden and Germany. The criterion for these reductions is the level "of reasonable sufficiency", said Kobaladze.

Observers give attention to the fact that the wave of spy mania in the West coincided with the approval of budgets for the next fiscal year. For instance, the White House has recently submitted for consideration to the U.S. Congress the estimate of spending of the U.S. intelligence community at an amount of 30 billion dollars, that is at the level of the "cold war" peak.

Supreme Soviet

Upcoming Congress, New Constitution Discussed

LD0903170592

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1423 GMT on 9 March carries a five-minute report by correspondent Olga Vasilenko on the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, where the committees and commissions are meeting.

Vasilenko reports that the Supreme Soviet Presidium discusses the progress on drafting a new Russian Constitution. Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, opening the Presidium session, says that the most expedient approach would be for the forthcoming Congress of People's Deputies to approve the draft at the first reading while the existing constitution is amended, in order to avoid a legal vacuum. Meanwhile, the constitutional commission is continuing its deliberations and will confer again before the congress.

Khasbulatov mentions Friday's [6 March] meeting of the Supreme Soviet chairmen of Russia's constituent republics to discuss a federal treaty and to begin the signing process. According to Vasilenko, Khasbulatov is also concerned about the planned Congress of USSR People's Deputies [17 March] and the reaction to it in the CIS member states.

Khasbulatov says: "Some are even saying that this congress is being supported by the Russian leadership in order to set up a new centre, and so on. International world opinion is also alarmed: Russia is a member of the Security Council, it is recognised by other states in the world community, and suddenly there is this attempt—and everyone must realize that it is a naked attempt—to destabilize our political and economic situation, which is complex enough as it is. So nobody should think or say afterwards that we did not know what was going to be said at this congress.

It will, of course, be the propaganda of enmity, of this there can be absolutely no doubt. It will be propaganda to the effect that all that has happened is unlawful. It will be an attempt to elect the head of some mythical state entity. In general, it will very seriously undermine our efforts—remember that the president has spoken out and I have as well at the trade union conference—our efforts to achieve a kind of social peace and concord, in order to bring people closer together, to halt the hunt for blacks, whites, browns, and so on. Incidentally, we view the adoption of a new constitution as a highly important factor making it possible for our people to rally around such an important idea as the creation of a democratic and multi-ethnic state."

Vasilenko continues that also on the Presidium's agenda was a planned amnesty that will lead to the release of 3.7 percent of all convicts, about 21,000 people. The draft document will go to committees and commissions and later to the president for approval.

The Presidium also discussed ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA. Although the Supreme Soviet is one of its founders, the paper is now perceived as the mouthpiece of the government. Vasilenko rounds off her report by saying that Aleksandr Shokhin, deputy chairman of the government, is speaking on additional social-welfare measures being prepared before the 6th Congress of People's Deputies.

Checks, Balances Explored

LD0903182892 Moscow TASS in English 1747 GMT 7 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow March 7 TASS—We must prevent Russia from sharing the fate of the Soviet Union, members of the Constitutional Commission stressed at their meeting today. They discussed in the "White House" the new draft constitution of the Russian Federation. Representatives of the legislative, executive and judicial authorities expressed their attitude to the draft fundamental law of the Russian state, which is expected to be submitted for the consideration of the sixth Congress of People's Deputies, due to be held in April this year.

Presenting the draft constitution, executive secretary of the Constitutional Commission Oleg Rumyantsev dwelt on the 14th chapter, entitled "spheres of authority and prerogatives of the Russian Federation, republics, regions and districts." He pointed out that the difficult process of the division of power between the federal and local authorities may be successfully completed before the opening of the Congress of People's Deputies, but added that "probably, we shall not manage to coordinate all aspects of the problem with some republics, but it will be a good basis for a general discussion at the congress."

The prerogatives of the president and the parliament, as well as their cooperation was another issue, which became the subject of a heated discussion. "We want neither a control-free president, nor a control-free government, but, according to the draft constitution, the head of state can be removed from his post only if he violates seriously the fundamental law or the federal law. The draft constitution says nothing about the vote of confidence to the president. "If we give such prerogatives to the parliament, we should simultaneously give the right to the president to dissolve the parliament," Rumyantsev pointed out.

There is another important aspect: The chairman of the government, who will be appointed by the president, can be removed from his post by the parliament—by two thirds of the votes at one of its chambers, and only after the second discussion. The head of the government will resign automatically only if the chamber votes for the second time for his dismissal.

The Constitutional Commission gave up the idea of creating "lands" on the territory of the Russian Federation. According to Rumiantsev, "the republics have a

feeling that the 'lands' will engulf sovereign republics, and the latter will lose their national statehood."

Aims To Prevent Federation 'Decay'

OW0903173492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1621 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A news conference on Monday [9 March] held in the runup to debates on Russia's new constitution at the Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation was told that the main aim of Russia's new constitution would be to prevent the decay of the Russian Federation. The Executive Secretary of the Constitutional Commission of parliament Oleg Rumiantsev, said that the congress of people's deputies would apparently open on April 6, in any case no later than April 14.

Constitutional Commission members told the news conference that under the new draft of the constitution secession from the Russian Federation would be possible only if most of the citizens vote for that in a referendum and the resolution is approved by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. Commission members said they would like the draft of a new fundamental law adopted after the first reading, or in general. If that does not happen, the president and some of the people's deputies would hold a national referendum on the draft. If the congress approves the constitution after the first reading, the amended draft would be published for nation-wide discussion.

The news conference was told that the question of power-sharing between the Russian Federation and its members was the most sensitive of all. Oleg Rumyantsev said that President Yeltsin would undertake to coordinate and secure the signing of a political agreement on the delimitation of powers. However, the congress can include this document in the current constitution in the capacity of an amendment, or into the new fundamental law of the Russian Federation as a new chapter.

Rumyantsev said that the constitutional committee on Saturday [7 March] managed to narrow differences between the federal authorities and the constituent republics over the new Constitution. All elements of state power—the President, the Chairman (Speaker) of the Supreme Soviet and the Chairman of the Constitutional Court—have unanimously voted to the promulgation of a new Constitution.

Khasbulatov Against Former USSR 'Congress'

OW0903173892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1621 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The speaker of the Russian Parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov has said that he had called all factions of the Supreme Soviet to criticize the attempt to convene a "Congress of People's Deputies of the former USSR" on March 17. Khasbulatov said in his opening remarks at a session of the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet that the attempt caused concern among all former Soviet republics and the international public.

The chairman of the parliamentary committee on legislation, Mikhail Mityukov, spoke on amendments to the republican Constitution, to be suggested at the forthcoming Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation. The congress will open in Moscow on April 6. Mityukov said that most of the amendments concerned the new name of the state, the denunciation of the treaty of the USSR and the adoption of the declaration of human and civic rights by the parliament of Russia. He said that the suggested amendments took into account the fact that Russia had become an independent subject of international law.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet has sent a draft treaty of amendments to the Russian constitution to the committees and commissions of parliament for preliminary consideration.

Appeal to Tatarstan People, President Released

PM0803175192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 March 92 First Edition p 1

["Appeal from the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet to the People, Supreme Soviet, and President of the Republic of Tatarstan," adopted by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet 5 March 1992]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet respects the sovereign rights of every republic, and seeks to promote the national individuality, language, and culture of all the peoples of Russia. At the same time we are sincerely concerned by recent events in Tatarstan, fraught as they are with the risk of national discord in the republic and the destruction of the Russian Federation.

The question submitted to referendum—"Do you agree that the Republic of Tatarstan is a sovereign state, a subject of international law, basing its relations with other republics and states on the basis of equitable treaties?"—is incorrectly formulated. Three different questions are delivered in one formula, to which it is proposed that one answer should be given: "Yes or No." This alone is capable of distorting the genuine will of the peoples of Tatarstan.

This formulation of the question and the unjustified haste in holding the referendum are an act of disrespect toward the multinational people of Tatarstan and the statehood of the Russian Federation, and are aimed at severing the age-old ties of the Tatar people with other peoples and at the secession of the Republic of Tatarstan from the Russian Federation.

By undermining the unity and friendship of the peoples inhabiting the Republic of Tatarstan the republic's secession from the Russian Federation would entail negative consequences for all citizens. Behind all this stand forces pursuing mercenary goals and the satisfaction of their own political ambitions.

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet expresses the hope that the people of the Republic of Tatarstan will themselves examine the situation that has arisen, and not fall in line behind the separatist forces.

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is working persistently on further improvements to the national-state structure, and these will be enshrined in the Federation Treaty and the new democratic constitution of the Russian Federation. We believe that the Republic of Tatarstan will occupy a worthy place in the Russian Federative State in the framework of this process.

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet proposes that the people and the higher organs of power of Tatarstan should show wisdom and make a decision enabling us all, effectively and without detriment to one another, to realize the historical tasks of radically reforming the economy and democratic structure of the Russian Federation as an integral state of free, sovereign peoples.

Adopted by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation 5 March 1992

'Dangerous Precedent' Examined

PM0903133592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Georgiy Ivanov-Smolenskiy: "Ambiguous Question Asked at the Tatarstan Referendum"]

[Text] **The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet has urged the people, Supreme Soviet and president of the Republic of Tatarstan not to go the way of the separatist forces.**

The actual question was worded as follows: "Do you agree that the Tatarstan Republic is a sovereign state, a subject of international law, building its own relations with the Russian Federation, other republics, and states on the basis of equitable treaties?" Anybody who has been following the development of the political situation in Tatarstan knew long ago that the referendum could hardly have been avoided. Forces calling for the republic to secede from Russia, proclaiming that this is the only way to preserve the Tatarstan people's distinctiveness and their prosperity, were acting increasingly insistently and purposefully. The latest steps in this direction were the convening of the "All-Tatar Assembly"—the "kurultay"—and the attempt to form alternative power structures at it, and also the failure of the forum of democratic forces in Kazan.

That the question submitted for the referendum was worded in a complex if not totally incomprehensible manner did not come as a total surprise either. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet appeal states that "it incorporates three different questions, for which it is expected to give just one answer: 'Yes or No'." Experience of referendums in politically unsophisticated countries shows that in fact a great deal depends upon the question's wording, and that as a rule the answer is programmed into the question itself. It is not ruled out that many participants in the Tatarstan referendum simply will not look into the essence of the question and, more importantly, the possible consequences of one or other answer. It would be another matter if the questions were put simply and clearly: "Do you want Tatarstan to secede from Russia?" In this connection, the Russian parliament appeal states clearly that "this alone (the ambiguous wording of the question—author) is capable of distorting the people's true will."

The appeal goes on: "This way of formulating the question and the unjustifiably hasty organization of the referendum constitute an act of disrespect toward the multinational people of Tatarstan and Russian Federation statehood aimed at severing the Tatar people's age-old links with other peoples and withdrawing the Republic of Tatarstan from the Russian Federation. ...Behind all of this stand forces pursuing mercenary aims and striving to satisfy political ambitions."

It is obvious that the Russian Parliament is concerned not only about the possible complication of relations with Tatarstan and the domestic political situation therein, but also the dangerous precedent which could set an example for some of the other autonomies. Therefore, it could perceptibly accelerate the processes of disintegration and division in Russia and hinder its emergence and consolidation as a united, integral state.

Judging by statements from the leaders of the nationalist movement and Tatar President Mintimer Shaymiyev, they have no doubt about the referendum's outcome. However, while the answer to the referendum question may be quite clear, it is by no means clear for a whole number of questions automatically arising should Tatarstan declare itself a fully-fledged "state within a state." Above all, the question of worsening relations between the Tatar and "Russian-speaking population" in the republic—whose ratio is practically one to one—is bound to arise. Nor is it clear what will happen to such industrial giants as, say, KamAZ, which was constructed using resources from the whole of the former Union. Finally, it seems that today even the republic leadership has no clear answers to the actual questions submitted for referendum. How, in concrete terms, will state sovereignty and international-legal relations between Tatarstan and other countries be implemented in real life and policy? At the very least, in a recent television interview President M. Shaymiyev gave no clear answers to these questions.

As expected, the reaction of the Tatarstan leaders was swift and unyielding. The Autonomous Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium held session for two days before the holiday, ITAR-TASS correspondent N. Sorokin reported. A statement was published 8 March confirming that the "question submitted for referendum does not envisage the Tatarstan Republic's seceding or not seceding from Russia or its state isolation from Russia."

Shokhin Addresses Unemployment, Social Concerns

LD0903195792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1840 GMT 9 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 9 March (TASS)— There were 70,000 unemployed in the Russian Federation as of 1 February. According to government estimates, the number will rise to 700,000 by this summer and to 1.5 million by the fall, Aleksandr Shokhin, deputy chairman of the government, said. He spoke at today's session of the Presidium of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. In his view, a number of provisions of the law on employment should be revised and the figure of payments to the employment fund should be corrected towards increasing payments of this kind.

The vice premier said that, according to government forecasts, 6.5-7 million will have sought assistance at employment agencies by the end of this year. Of this number, he said, 2 million will be offered suitable jobs before registering as unemployed. Two million unemployed will be offered retraining courses and about 3.2 million will qualify for benefits.

Questions connected with the social protection of the population in conditions of liberalized prices will be examined by the Russian parliament at the end of this week. This was decided at today's session of the Presidium of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. Aleksandr Shokhin noted that work is in progress on the mechanism for the transition to new levels of salaries, pensions and benefits, proceeding from minimum rates for all kinds of payments, an a draft law of social benefits for families with children is being drawn up. Aleksandr Shokhin stressed that a single and comprehensive approach to revising salaries in budget industries and suggested that such a revision should be carried out every quarter.

Regional Affairs

Luzhkov Turns Down 17 Mar Rally Request

LD0903152292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Mar 92

["Text of message sent by Moscow Vice Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov to Mayor Gavriil Popov" on 9 March; read "over the telephone by Viktor Malinshcuk, chief editor of VESTNIK and deputy head of the mayor's office press center"]

[Text] A group of USSR people's deputies has announced the convocation of a USSR Congress of People's Deputies in Moscow on 17 March. The organizers are planning to restore the USSR, to elect a head of state, and to set up a government of the USSR.

At the same time, through underground structures of the former CPSU, it is planned to bring to Moscow several tens of thousands of staunch activists and militants to organize a so-called nationwide assembly, which is to endorse the results of the congress. Work on preparing these events is being conducted on a considerable scale. The former party press has been brought in, leaflets are being circulated, and news conferences are being held.

It is the deeply held belief of the Moscow government that, in spite of all the groundlessness and [word indistinct] of the design, the planned action is an attempt to create unconstitutional parallel bodies of power, incompatible with the declarations of independence adopted by the sovereign states which have emerged in place of the collapsed USSR.

Of particular concern is the fact that the initiative to hold a nationwide assembly in Moscow has been taken on by public organizations and activists which have been the organizers of a whole series of mass actions in the recent period. Their nucleus is made up of fragments of the former CPSU, which have not reconciled themselves with the loss of their leading and governing role. Recently these activists have been openly demonstrating their aspiration by all methods, not stopping at illegal and violent methods as was the case on 23 February, to destabilize the situation in Moscow and Russia, to provoke clashes, and, in the final analysis, to wreck the reforms underway in Russia.

Taking account of the above and bearing in mind that in the current conditions there are insufficient guarantees from the organizers of the events on 17 March with regard to ensuring public order and the safety of citizens, the Moscow government has not found it possible to agree on the application to hold a mass rally on Manezh Square on 17 March.

The government of Moscow requests that a legal assessment be made of the situation that has emerged and of the possibility of sanctioning the planned mass events. The government of Moscow states that it has at its disposal adequate forces to firmly control the situation in the city, and to ensure law and order and the safety of the capital's inhabitants.

Assembly Deemed 'Unconstitutional'

OW0903174392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1621 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A consultative body at the Moscow Mayor's office has supported the Moscow Government's ban on a rally the "Workers' Moscow" movement is going to hold on March 17. Speakers said that the demonstration, conceived as a "popular assembly, was unconstitutional and running counter to Russia's state system. [quotation marks as received] At the same time the consultative body said that the Supreme Soviet and the Prosecutor's office must look into the question, too. The Russian parliament is going to study the problem this week.

In general, the members of the collegium said it must be made a rule that to hold any demonstration a simple notification of the authorities should be enough without

any permission from the authorities. Several routes with not very busy traffic should be chosen for such demonstrations.

If the organizers of political actions insist on holding them in the city center of busy places, for that they will have to receive permission from the authorities. Similar procedures exist in other countries.

A final resolution on the issue will be adopted later, when the draft rules of demonstrations in the city has been finalized. The Moscow Government is going to issue a statement to that effect in the near future.

Militia Readies for Possible 'Clashes'

LD0903222992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1959 GMT 9 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Moscow [dateline as received]—On March 17, Moscow militia will be placed in a hard situation, said Arkadiy Murashev, head of Moscow Interior Department, at the Russian Federation's presidium session on March 9.

Arkadiy Murashev said that the number of those who will come out on Manezh Square, despite the prohibition, can run up to some 10,000 people, according to preliminary data. As Murashev said, if these people are allowed to enter Manezh Square in the center of the city in rush hours, the traffic will be paralyzed. But if the city center is closed, clashes will be possibly provoked. Murashev spoke in favor of a maximum of decisive measures. At the same time, according to Murashev, most people in Moscow Government are feeling severely against the meeting planned for March 17, although the Moscow Government has not yet taken a final position as to militia's actions on March 17.

The presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Russian Federation has taken a decision of holding a conference of the presidium members on March 11 on this question. As Valentin Stepankov, Russian Federation's prosecutor-general, said, the prose utor's office has worked out a plan of action in relation of both to the so-called Congress of the People's Deputies of the USSR and the meeting to be held on March 17. This plan has been already presented to Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Russian Federation.

Militiamen To Refuse 'Bloodstained' Bonuses

PM0903132392 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 3 Mar 92 p 2

[S. Shevtsov "Rejoinder": "Bloodstained Millions"]

[Text] It seemed hard to imagine greater cynicism than that displayed by A. Murashev, head of the Moscow City Internal Affairs Administration, during a news conference at the Moscow Soviet 25 February. It is well known that the head of Moscow's militia—responsible for a savage assault on women, war veterans, and juveniles in the center of the capital 23 February—appeared before Soviet and foreign journalists full of the joys of spring. He said that at the time when special purpose militia detachments were using their boots and truncheons mercilessly against people trying to get through to the Eternal Flame, he had been "driving around Moscow."

"People in the city were going about their business. There was a peaceful hum of activity in the Arbat," Murashev smiled.

On 28 February he signed an order awarding bonuses to Moscow City Internal Affairs Administration personnel. "On 23 February," it said, "the Moscow public celebrated Armed Forces Day. However, some political forces tried to use the celebrations to organize mass riots." (By laying wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier?!) "This provocation was foiled by the militia's actions. The following deputy heads of the City Internal Affairs Administration are to be awarded a bonus, equivalent to twice their salary, for their self-restraint and skillful action: G.V. Postoyuk, V.I. Balagura, V.I. Dovzhuk, V.M. Kononov, and Yu.A. Tomashev."

This is followed by a list of officials awarded a bonus equivalent to their salary or one-half their salary... A total of 9.92 million rubles [R] has been allocated in awards for Moscow's "brave and capable" militiamen.

If you recall that the Moscow Government spent R20 million on organizing numerous barricades of trucks 23 February, the entire action to keep Russian people from their sacred places cost almost R30 million. It goes without saying that this money will not come from the personal accounts of Popov and Luzhkov, but from the pockets of the people against whom the "antifascist democrats" were so generous with their truncheons.

According to information received by the editorial office, many Moscow militiamen intend to refuse "Murashev's money," because "it is bloodstained."

Military District Command Exercise in Progress

LD1003113192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] A planning, command, and headquarters staff exercise is being conducted in Moscow Military District 9-14 March. There is no provision for the participation of troops. This was reported at the Moscow Military District press center to an ITAR-TASS correspondent. The press centre noted that such exercises are held periodically in accordance with plans for the operational and tactical training of headquarters staff.

Luzhkov Wants Food Sale Restrictions Lifted

LD1003023492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow leader Yuriy Luzhkov has asked Russian President Boris Yeltsin to make Moscow Oblast's administration lift all restrictions on the sales of food to Muscovites.

RIA was told at the capital's mayoralty that this is because in the majority of Moscow districts procedures on the sales of food goods in accordance with lists and coupons continue. This restricts Muscovites' rights and is impermissible on the threshold of the mass exodus to garden plots, kitchen gardens, and dachas.

Kuzbass Strike Consequences Would Be 'Grave'

LD0903172492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1022 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigoriy Shalakin]

[Text] Kemerovo (Western Siberia), 9 Mar (TASS)—The Kemerovo Oblast workers' committee has called upon working people to refrain from the strike planned for 11 March by the federation of trade union organizations of the Kuzbass, the major coal-mining region in Western Siberia.

A statement from the committee circulated here today calls the trade unions' actions "part of a plan by political revanchists to overthrow the Russian Government and to restrict the president's powers." All the contradictions with the Russian Government can be settled at the negotiating table, given only one condition—an interest in the continuation of economic reforms, the statement says.

"If the general strike called for by the trade unions is held in Kuzbass, it will be worse than all those that went before, which, apart from destroying the party's monopoly, brought grave economic consequences to the region," Mikhail Kislyuk, head of the Kuzbass administration, said at a news conference today.

He said that during the mass miners' strike in 1989 the economy of the Kuzbass was predictable and manageable, but now a strike would hit, not at the state, but at every citizen of this industrial region. In Kislyuk's view, a strike in budget-funded organizations is possible. In that case, he said, the administration would act in accordance with the Law on Labor Conflicts.

Burbulis Delegation To Arrive

LD1003105192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] The coordinating council of the Kuzbass Federation of Sectoral Trade Unions decided today to postpone the general strike until 12 March. This was reported to INTERFAX by federation chairman (Anatoliy Cheykis). He linked this decision with a telegram from Moscow bearing the signature of Gennadiy Burbulis, first deputy chairman of the Russian Government, which says that a commission is to arrive in Kuzbass from Moscow on 12 March to settle the social and labor conflict in the region.

Tatar Referendum About 'Status', Not Secession

OW0603131592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1128 GMT 6 Mar 92

["Interview" with Tartarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Nation and Society" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On March 21 a referendum will be held in Tatarstan on confirmation of its sovereignty. The question offered for the vote does not contain the word "independence" causing mixed reactions both in Tatarstan and outside of it. The new status of the republic and its bilateral relations with the Russian Federation raise a lot of questions. President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaymiyev responds to some of them in the interview.

Mintimer Shaymiyev: There is no term "independence" in the question of the referendum because, in our opinion, it is rather a political than legal term. The former Union republics had to adopt acts of independence although they were then considered sovereign states. However, sovereignty within the framework of the former Soviet Union was hard to achieve, that is why they resorted to adopting the acts of independence which was in essence a political step. Tatarstan, for one, wants to raise its status. The Russian parliament does not recognize Tatarstan's declaration on state sovereignty, hence, our decision to hold a referendum to show everybody that sovereignty is the people's choice.

The referendum could have not been needed if Russia would have treated the ongoing processes in the former autonomous republics differently. We believe the federal government's reaction to our decision is inadequate today.

And ours' is not a peculiar position. A number of republics, among them South Ossetia, Kalmikiyal Bashkortostan, are not going to accept a draft constitution of the Russian Federation and an agreement on division of powers. Of course, one can pretend that nothing has happened and vote for the constitutional order denied by the republics. But one should know that the process cannot be stopped by such methods. The recent events in the Union republics could not help affecting the autonomous formations. Today Russia proposes a new draft constitution and agreements on power sharing which virtually deprive the republics of the rights they had prior to perestroyka. I think they are unlikely to agree with that. The republics will not claim more rights than they can exercise. But they should determine their range themselves, since all of the republics have different capabilities. In any case, to think that Russia will be able to preserve its present form would be an illusion. Other autonomous republics may follow Tatarstan's example unless their sovereignty is recognized. But they should choose a form of protecting their independence themselves.

As for Tatarstan, it intends to build special relations with Russia on an equal rights basis. Previously, two centers

were putting pressure on us: the Russian and the Union ones. The Union center is gone. But it turned out that the Russian center does not differ a lot from the Union one by its principles. I don't think that Tatarstan needs to create its own customs, army and currency. The principle of expediency should be dominant. I believe these and other issues will be considered by Tatarstan together with the Russian Federation. So, we are not talking about secession from the Russian Federation, but about establishing bilateral relations on a new basis and raising Tatarstan's status.

Charges of 'Separatism' Rejected

LD0903200692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] At a session of the Supreme Soviet in Bashkortostan, a draft of the new constitution of the Russian Federation was rejected, the (?NEKA) Agency reports.

In Tatarstan, the chairman of the republican Supreme Soviet has presented an appeal to the people.

[Correspondent I. Latypov] In the appeal the referendum is referred to as a decisive step on the path to the development of democracy.

[F. Mukhametshin, chairman of the Tatarstan Supreme Soviet] This is a future prospect of new, just, and mutually advantageous relations between the peoples of Russia.

[Latypov] The Tatarstan Supreme Soviet considers the holding of a referendum the inalienable, constitutional right of its people, and categorically rejects the charge of separatism.

The people are being promised prosperity and well-being once Tatarstan acquires independence. The economic motive was the main one when the republics were fighting for secession from the Union. They believed that once they had rid themselves of diktat from the center they would start to live better. No one has started to live better; that's obvious now, and Tatarstan's separation from Russia—and the referendum may lead precisely to this in the long run—will scarcely improve the living standards of the population.

Tatar Deputies Skeptical About Independence

LD0803222892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 6 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Tatar Public Center has called for the constitutional recognition of two state languages and dual citizenship. It urged the public to vote "yes" in the referendum. A number of work collectives in Kazan have adopted a different appeal, calling for a "no" vote in the referendum. They believe that a "yes" vote will signify Tatarstan's secession from the Russian Federation, which will split society and exacerbate interethnic relations. One of the Republican leadership's main arguments in favor of independence runs as follows. We are rich, it says. We have oil. We can feed ourselves. However, this is disputed by a number of specialists.

[B. Vorobyev, Tatarstan People's Deputy] The Republic's oil reserves continue to be its main resource. Independence, economic independence, would have been more feasible, of course, when the Republic was producing 105 million tonnes of oil—if this had all been used to promote the people's welfare. But the volume of oil extracted has now fallen sharply, and so has industrial production in general. Furthermore, the military-industrial complex and industrial enterprises in the city and the Republic as a whole are tremendously dependent on Russian regions. This does not create favorable conditions for economic and political independence. After all economic independence implies political independence.

[Z. Latypov, Tatarstan People's Deputy] In my view people are well aware that it is a big mistake to think we will live better than we do now if we declare our independence. We won't live better as a result.

'Major Accident' at Methanol Plant in Urals

LD0903102592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0924 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Solikamsk/Perm Oblast, 9 Mar (TASS)—Sixteen people have been hospitalized and hundreds of kilograms of chlorine have been discharged into the atmosphere or spilled on the ground after a major accident at the Solikamsk "Methanol" chemical works, which occurred on Sunday [8 March].

It is reported from the scene of the accident that a half-a-kilometer high cloud of chlorine fumes has formed over the town. According to provisional information, the accident was caused by a leak of liquid chlorine from the plant's stores.

The accident is being investigated.

International

Fokin Discusses Tyumen Oil Deliveries

LD0903205892 Kiev Radio Kiev First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The main worry this spring is where to get fuel in order to carry out work on the fields. Therefore we impatiently waited for the results of the trip of Vitold Fokin, the prime minister of Ukraine, to Tyumen. The head of the government has already come back after signing a treaty which envisages establishing direct bilateral links between Ukraine and Tyumen Oblast on the basis of barter deliveries. Let us listen to what our correspondent Ihor Bak tells us:

[Bak] It is not difficult to guess the main aim of this trip by the head of our government. Yes, Vitold Fokin left all his business in Kiev and flew to Russia to solve in some way the problem of great importance: fuel. As you know it has become very acute due to the fact that Turkmenistan stopped gas deliveries. However, now we have a fairly serious ground to expect things to get better. This was stated to correspondents of the Ukraine State TV and Radio Company and UKRINFORM by the head of our government when he returned to Kiev. Listen to fragments of Vitold Pavlovych Fokin's story. [passage omitted]

[Begin Fokin recording] Ukrainian working people and specialists took an extremely active part in starting up the oil and gas extraction complex in Siberia. That is exactly why, taking into account the great potential of this complex and taking into account the existance of reserves and deposits of both gas and oil that are expected to last dozens of years, we have been striving for a long time to conclude an agreement, a bilateral agreement between this enourmous region—incidentally, it is almost four times larger than the territory of Ukraine, it is not just a small province—so we have been striving to conclude direct economic contacts with Tyumen and put them on the level of an agreement. We could not do that for a long time as there was no agreement with the Russian administration.

You understand that this issue is a delicate one. However, after signing an agreement between Ukraine and Russia on 6 November, and this agreement was signed by both presidents, we expected the deliveries of gas, oil, timber, and other products from Tyumen to Ukraine, just as deliveries of grain, flour, sunflower oil, sugar, and also products for industrial purposes like pipes, cement, and others would be fulfilled on the level of obligations which had been assumed. [passage omitted]

Therefore last time when we gathered in Minsk, the CIS countries, we managed to convince Gennadiy Eduardovich Burbulis and Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin that it would be absolutely correct to establish direct bilateral contacts with certain regions on the level of treaties on mutual deliveries. Since such agreement existed, I intended to go to Tyumen for a long time, for two weeks, to see with my own eyes what is available there and to sign such an agreement if I were lucky. A visit by Comrade Yuriy Konstantinovich Shafrannyk, the head the Tyumen Radio Tyumen in Russian Oblast administration who visited Kiev two weeks before that, helped it a lot and we agreed in principle on the possibility of signing such agreement. And during the last three days this situation became a reality—this treaty is already signed. [end recording]

[Bak] And this treaty was signed on the basis of the agreement that was concluded on 6 November between Russia and Ukraine and envisaged creating favorable conditions for the activity and development of oil and gas fields. And there is a number of important points in the treaty that was signed in Tyumen. In the first place the parties pledged themselves to conclude treaties on deliveries, starting from March, of products for industrial and technical use, raw materials, foodstuffs in volumes, and lists of products which satisfy completely Ukraine's demand for fuel between all enterprises and combines, regardless of their form of ownership and economic relations. This is the main thing, Vitold Fokin stressed.

[Begin Fokin recording] We proceeded from the principle to reproduce the level of 1990, i.e. when our economy still was not shattered and ruined and these levels ensured the normal functioning of all branches of industry. So we assumed as a principle the preserving of the level of the year 1990 excluding oil, because, I will tell you straight, the output of oil decreased sharply. [passage omitted]

Therefore, it is quite natural that deliveries of only 40 million tonnes of oil are envisaged this year instead of 52 million tonnes of oil that we received last year. However, under such conditions our spring field work would be under threat. We hardly received oil in January. I do not want to accuse anyone but, at the same time, I want to dismiss accusations addressed to me. We could not count on deliveries of oil because we ourselves were up to our ears in debt, as it were.

And we, personally being bankrupt, could not settle accounts with them because we inherited from the former USSR a huge internal debt which together with the debts we amassed recently, during price liberalization, so-called liberalization, our internal debt ammounts to approximately 286 billion rubles.

For the sake of objectivity one must say that they trusted our word and starting from the very first days of February they have been delivering oil according to the schedule that had been fixed. They have been giving us this oil on credit. Only due to that fact have we fulfilled the plan of producing and delivering fuel and are now actively delivering oil products to every oblast, every rayon, and every farm.

So, in the agreement that we signed with Comrade Shafrannik we pledged ourselves to deliver to Tyumen Oblast a certain amount of consumer goods and foodstuffs over these two months and I am convinced that we will fulfill our obligation because we gathered recently

with chairmen of soviets and oblast executive committees and created, according to a mutual agreement, a fairly strong centralized barter fund. There is sugar there, there is flour, sunflower oil, and some comsumer goods. All this was found in our own reserves in every oblast. Now they can count on corresponding deliveries of fuel, diesel fuel, lubricants, and so on according to a share contributed by every oblast.

And the people of Tyumen simply showed courage, in my view. They took upon themselves very difficult obligations to deliver 3.9 million tonnes of oil every month according to a sort of advanced delivery schedule; we will have almost 4 million tonnes of oil both in March and in April. This satisfies our demand completely and makes me hope that we will be able to finish the sowing campaign on time and without big losses. [passage omitted] [end recording]

EC, U.S. Recommend Urgent Medical Aid

LD0903185292 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Conference as to the results of the visit of the group of governmental experts on medicine from the countries, members of the European Community, and the United States, was held in Kiev 7 March. They were staying in Ukraine with the aim to determine the amount of urgent medical aid which the Western countries are going to give (?us). The foreign experts stressed at the conference that Ukraine should receive this aid first and foremost because namely our republic was affected by the after-effects of the Chernobyl tragedy, most of all (?the) European areas of the former Soviet Union.

Germany Sends Humanitarian Aid to Kiev

LD0803200292 Moscow TASS in English 1403 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Bonn March 8 (TASS)—A Kiev-bound Boeing-707 plane with a cargo of humanitarian aid supplies for Ukraine left Cologne-Bonn airport today. The cargo includes medicines and other drugs worth more than five million deutsche marks. This humanitarian action is being undertaken at the expense of the German Foreign Ministry and the Bundeswehr.

A German Foreign Ministry statement issued here emphasises that the medicines are being delivered at the request of Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin and are a manifestation of the Bonn cabinet's readiness to give humanitarian aid with a view to overcoming the complex situation in Ukraine.

In Kiev, the medicines will be handed over to the government of Ukraine by Duke Von Bassewitz, the German ambassador to Ukraine.

Ukraine To Sell Military Equipment Abroad

92UM0714A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Mar 92 p 3

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent V. Malyshev: "Ukraine Intends To Sell Weapons Overseas"]

[Text] Athens, 3 March—Ukraine intends to sell overseas a large consignment of modern combat aircraft and helicopters from the arsenals of the former Soviet Army. Your ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned this from reliable sources in Athens.

To ensure the confidentiality of the deal, attempts are being made to carry it through simultaneously via two intermediaries in Germany and Greece. This is being handled in the FRG by the Slawa Import-Export firm quartered in Oldenburg, and in Greece the brokerage in the weapons sale has been entrusted to... the local communists. Specifically, to Yanis Mavromatis, who previously handled the Communist Party of Greece's economic relations with the former USSR and other East European countries and who is well known from the "CPSU money" affair.

In the opinion of these same sources, it is impossible to carry off such a deal in Europe. For this reason potential customers are also being sought among Third World countries, in Iran and Iraq particularly.

Twenty MiG-29's with a full complement of weapons, eight Il-76TD military transport aircraft, and 10 Mi-17 fire-support helicopters are being offered for sale. An Il-76TD is going for $40 million, but they are prepared to let it go for $25 million, and $25 million is being asked for a MiG-29.

Military Agreement Negotiated With Hungary

PM0903124992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Fedor Lukyanov report: "Ukraine Concludes Its First Military Cooperation Agreement—With Hungary"]

[Text] Budapest—While it seems as though Ukraine is finding it increasingly difficult to find common ground on military issues with its CIS partners, there are no such problems with neighboring Hungary. The visit to Budapest by Ukrainian Defense Minister Colonel General K. Morozov and his two-day talks with Hungarian colleagues—which ended with the signing of an agreement on ties—demonstrated, as the minister himself put it, a coincidence of positions between the two countries on basic issues.

The current visit to Budapest by the Ukrainian minister, who once served there with units of the Southern Group of Forces—which are nowadays referred to in Hungary simply as forces of occupation—was held in rather unusual circumstances. On the one hand, the situation regarding Ukrainian relations with Russia and with the CIS as a whole is well known. On the other hand, the situation as regards Hungary's relations with its direct

neighbors—Romania, Serbia, and Slovakia—is complex. These relations have deteriorated owing to certain statements by Hungarian Defense Minister L. Fur. Speaking in Miskolc the other day, Minister Fur stated that the defense of all Hungarians—irrespective of where they live—is an inalienable component of the overall defense of the Hungarian nation and a distinct [svoyeobraznyy] factor in Hungarian security policy. Virtually the next day the Romanian Foreign Ministry accused official Budapest of demonstrating territorial revisionism yet again and of destabilizing the situation in East Europe—particularly in Romania. Bratislava's reaction was no less sharp. The newspaper NARODNA OBRODA, which is close to the Slovak Government, has stated that it seems as though Hungary is starting to feel a stronger and stronger "sentimental nostalgia for its old European glory and historical greatness" (the era of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy—F.L.).

In this situation the arrival of General Morozov—defense minister of a country with quite a significant Hungarian minority living in its border regions—is of particular significance. Will Kiev agree to protection of the Transcarpathian Hungarians by Budapest? Judging by everything, however, the visit was not clouded by dissension.

As E. Raffay, secretary of state at the Hungarian Defense Ministry put it, the Ukrainian-Hungarian agreement which has been signed envisages, in particular, an extensive exchange of information in the first phase on the two countries' military plans and exercises. In the second phase, E. Raffai stated, Ukrainian-Hungarian cooperation will extend to the sphere of the military-industrial complex and conversion. According to the Budapest press, prospects exist for a wide-ranging deal between Kiev and Budapest for shipments of spares from Ukraine for Soviet-made combat equipment, or even of the equipment itself, in exchange for foodstuffs and help from the Hungarian side in implementing conversion. In the very near future military-diplomatic relations will also be established between Kiev and Budapest: Military attache positions [attashaty] are to be opened in the two countries' capitals.

In the next few days, incidentally, there will be a meeting in Budapest of the defense ministers of Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. Does not the Ukrainian minister's visit indicate a rapprochement not only with Hungary, but with the entire "East European trio"?

Finnish Foreign Minister Visits Kiev

LD0903230192 Moscow TASS in English 2023 GMT 9 Mar 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev March 9 TASS—Finnish Foreign Minister Paavo Vaeyrynen, who arrived in Ukraine today on a short visit, met with his Ukrainian counterpart Anatoliy Zlenko to discuss bilateral cooperation between the two states.

Vaeyrynen also held talks at the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade.

At a news conference after the talks, the Finnish foreign minister said Finland intends to open an embassy in Kiev shortly. He said Finland and Ukraine are now working out draft agreements on cooperation in trade and road construction.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Malta

LD0803070392 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] First deputy foreign minister of Ukraine, Mykola Makarevych, and extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of Malta in Moscow, Maurice Lubrano, had talks today in Ukraine's capital. They were crowned with the signing of a protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Malta. It has become the 105th country of the world which established diplomatic relations with Ukraine.

Chernobyl Unit Conversion Competition Announced

PM1003144592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Mar 92 First Edition p 1

[Report from roundup of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and ITAR-TASS reports: "International 'Shelter' Competition"]

[Text] The Ukrainian prime minister's press service has announced that the republic's cabinet of ministers has decreed that an international competition be held through 1 October 1992 to develop a plan and technical solutions to turn the destroyed fourth energy unit of the Chernobyl nuclear electric power station (project "Shelter") into an ecologically safe system. The competition will be held by the Ukrainian Ministry for Chernobyl and the republic's Academy of Sciences involving the Ukrainian department of the world laboratory international center for scientific culture. Prizes of the cabinet of ministers have been set for the competition winners: one first prize of $20,000, two second prizes of $10,000 each, and five consolation prizes of $5,000 each.

National Affairs

Lanovyy Appointed New Economy Minister

LD0903133692 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Volodymyr Lanovyy has been appointed the Minister of Economy of Ukraine. This 40 year old official is considered to be the most radical proponent of the idea of transferring Ukraine's economy onto the rails of market relations. It has become known to Radio Kiev from reliable sources that in the coming days Volodymyr Lanovyy will be further promoted to the post of Vice Premier. Many analysts regard such an appointment as a

possibility for Lanovyy to become head of government of Ukraine in the near future.

Budget Expected To Reach 1 Trillion Rubles

LD0903211492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1125 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Kiev—In 1992 Ukraine's spending from the republican budget is expected to reach 1 trillion rubles, a figure 10 times higher than in 1991.

Information obtained from the Ukrainian Finance Ministry's budget section says that this year republican revenues from all accounts are expected to fall within the range of 360 to 420 billion rubles, making Ukrainian budget spending exceed budget revenues by some 600 billion rubles, and that's only along the main lines of spending. In particular, the budget allocates 110,3 billion rubles to be spent to pay salaries to people, employed by on-the-budget offices, enterprises, and organizations 343 billion rubles are allocated to cover running expenses to maintain the republic's cultural and social sector 7 billion will foot the expenses to maintain bodies of state authority and management 11 billion—to support republican law-enforcement, national security, and legal bodies, as well as the Ukrainian general attorney's office 75.7 billion will be spent in the form of coal, gas, and other fuels' compensation and to pay tariffs for services 9 billion will go to service Ukraine's foreign debt and 0.8 billion—to cover expenses connected with the resettlement of the Crimean Tatars.

The Finance Ministry's experts predict that the larger part of spending from the republican budget will be channeled to pay for revenue indexation, social security schemes, the republic's social and cultural sector, and into production, in the form of government subsidies, for different branches of the Ukrainian economy. According to the experts' forecast, the task of salary indexation for people working in on-the-budget organizations and enterprises alone will soak up nearly 230 billion rubles, while steps to regulate prices on certain foods will require a minimum of 131 billion.

A high-ranking official from the ministry's budget sector has voiced the opinion that now it is necessary to review all existing legislation, and then, taking into account the state's financial resources, map out the priorities, determining what fields require financing first and foremost, and what fields may be financed at a later date and according to a different scheme. Besides, the ministry's budget specialists also believe, that it's not expedient to carry on the current practice of financing pay indexation from the republic's state budget. Neither is it worth while to continue the practice of state subsidies for foods, they say. Moreover, the Finance Ministry's experts strongly doubt that the requested sum of 69 billion rubles from the state budget, which should go to maintain the Ukrainian Army and the National Guard, is justifiable. They say that spending on the Army and the Guard can be cut significantly, if a decision is made to open up sealed Army stores, where military uniforms and other Army property is being kept, and to auction off this property.

Summer Unemployment Will Rise to 1.5 Million

LD0903184392 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] The leading Ukrainian experts in the field of economy forecast the sharply increasing unemployment in Ukraine. Now in the republic there are about 50,000 unemployed people. The experts reckon that by the coming summer this number will exceed 1.5 million of jobless people. The galloping unemployment in Ukraine is explained by the economists by several reasons; one of these reasons is bankruptcy of numerous enterprises on their way to the market economic relations.

Republic Forms Precious Metal, Diamond Reserve

PM0903143592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Sergey Tsikora: "Ukraine Creates State Reserve"]

[Text] Kiev—The Ukrainian cabinet of ministers has decreed a fivefold increase in prices for articles made of gold and silver sold by the population.

This year it is planned to lay in 10-20 tonnes of silver, one tonne of gold, four to five kilograms of platinum, and 10,000 carats of diamonds by means of such acquisitions.

Before Ukraine proclaimed independence all articles of precious metals and gems purchased from the population were sent to Moscow.

New 'Berkut' Militia Units To Replace OMON

LD1003020192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2230 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Berkut is the name given to the new rapid response militia units that have replaced the special purpose militia detachments [OMON] in Ukraine. The main task of the Berkut detachments will be fighting armed criminals.

Cossacks Appeal for Constitutional Recognition

LD0903184492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] The Zaporozhye Cossacks have asked the Ukrainian parliament and President Kravchuk to incorporate an article on the restoration of the Cossacks in the draft of the new constitution. IZVESTIYA reports that just the other day the [Zaporozhye] Oblast executive committee registered the Zaporozhye Cossack encampment as an association and allocated it a 100,000 ruble loan. According to Vladimir Melnik, the ataman of the Cossack encampment, the Cossacks are preparing to open a

boarding school which will provide an in-depth education on the history of Ukraine and the Cossack way of life. They have also formed a mounted squadron to maintain order on Khortitsa Island [a rocky island in the Dnepr, now forming part of the city of Zaporozhye, which was the original home and fortress of the Zaporozhye Cossacks].

Oblast Soviet Demands Fokin Resignation

LD0803030992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 6 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] KHARKOV-NOVOSTI News Agency reports that, after a stormy debate, the Dnepropetrovsk Oblast Soviet has refused to accept the resignation of the oblast executive committee. Instead the soviet demands the resignation of Ukrainian Prime Minister Fokin. Miners in the Krivbass [Krivoy Rog iron ore field] who are unhappy with this decision have announced an indefinite strike at all mines in the ore-mining basin.

Autonomous Republic Drafts Constitution

LD0703045192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 4 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] (Pan Fantych), president of an association of non-radical democrats, has signed a draft constitution for the Podkarpatskaya Autonomous Republic. The constitution has seven sections and 175 articles. It envisages the division of the Transcarpathian region into cantons that will have local governments and parliaments. The republic should be federal, with a parliamentary system. The draft was elaborated on the basis of the constitutions of Tanzania, Benin, Madagascar, and Albania. This is reported by the KHARKOV News Agency.

Moldova

Commission Decides To Set Up Security Zones

AU0903201492 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 9 Mar 92

Report by Chisinau correspondent Gabriel Ionescu—recorded]

[Text] Today, after two hours of talks, the Conciliation Commission on solving the situation on the left bank of the Dnestr River reached the conclusion that additional steps should be taken to localize the conflict and to keep it from spreading. The sides agreed that experts should examine violations of the agreements concluded. The sides also agreed to create security zones in places where problems arise. Likewise, experts will prepare the timetable and conditions for the withdrawal of armed forces.

Today, Mr. Mircea Snegur, president of the Republic of Moldova, received General (?Tuhani al-Thani), senator of the World Parliament for Security and Peace, who presented his credentials as ambassador of that organization to the Republic of Moldova and the countries in Eastern Europe—the presidential spokesman announced. During the talk, the sides discussed the situation on the left bank of the Dnestr River, emphasizing that the hostilities are not of an inter-ethnic origin, but were provoked by various pro-imperial structures and can be interpreted as flagrant interference in the domestic affairs of the Republic of Moldova. President Mircea Snegur said that he sent several cables, including to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali, blaming the forces responsible for the destabilization of the social and political situation in the republic.

Moldova fully observes the international documents recently signed and does not permit human rights violations anywhere on its territory, Mr. Snegur said. In this respect, he emphasized that certain Moscow media are disinforming the population, thus contributing to the danger of armed conflicts. In his turn, General (al-Thani) said that he sent telegrams to the UN secretary general and to U.S. President George Bush about the fact that the Soviet Armed Forces—which until recently have encouraged the separatists in violating the legal order—were involved in actions designed to increase tension. The ambassador said that UN peace observers should be invited to Moldova, an idea also supported by President Snegur. Likewise, the sides discussed the possibility of placing the Republic of Moldova under the protection of the world organization and the necessary formalities for that.

Esteemed listeners, a big rally took place in Chisinau this evening to protest the disinformation spread by the mass media in Moscow. Representatives of scores of Chisinau enterprises, institutions, and organizations took part and protested the news item broadcast last Sunday [8 March] by the central Soviet [as heard] Television Network according to which 28 coffins with the bodies of participants in Transdnestria events were sent to Romania. Two appeals were sent to President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin and to Igor Yakovlev, director of the Moscow TV Company.

Today, the monument of Voyvode Stefan cel Mare [Stephen the Great] in Chisinau was the starting point for the Cross Road march devoted to the 74th anniversary of Bessarabia's reunification with Romania. Until the union celebration scheduled for March 27, some 30 participants in the march will walk over 500 kilometers to arrive at the Central Stadium in Bucharest. According to MOLDOVA PRES, the aim of this action initiated by the Christian and Democratic Youth Organization of Moldova and the Students' League of Bucharest is to express their support for the idea of Moldova's reunification with Romania. Around the date of 27 March, the 30 will be joined by participants in the Chisinau-Bucharest car race and the Chisinau-Iasi marathon and by members of the Bucharest Students' League on Romania's territory. The participants in the march carry a placard demanding the elimination of the consequences of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pace and a blessed cross to be erected in the Bucharest University Square, where heroes of the 1989 December revolution gave their lives.

Experts Instructed To Set Withdrawal Timetable

LD0903211592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A special session of the conciliatory commission for settling the conflict in the Dnestr region was held in the Moldovan town of Bendery today. Experts have been instructed to draft and present a timetable for the withdrawal of armed formations from the conflict area.

Speaking on national radio today, Moldovan President Snegur stated that tension had increased lately in the left-bank regions of the republic. For its part, the Moldovan Republic's press bureau reports that the situation in the Dnestr region remains tense, but there have been no further serious incidents.

The Moldovan Ministry of National Security today accused a militarized formation of the Dnestr region of terrorizing servicemen of the 14th Army of the CIS. The example of the capturing of a 14th Army officer, Colonel Stepankov, is being cited as proof of this. He was shot in the head with a pistol yesterday and taken off in an unknown direction. Late that same night, the colonel was returned to the same place. The Ministry of National Security has demanded that the armed formations of the right bank surrender their weapons immediately.

A meeting was held at the Ostankino TV company with members of the Moldovan parliament.

Agreement Reached on Armed Groups Withdrawal

LD1003083192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] In another hot spot of the former USSR, in the Republic of Moldova, it seems things are on the mend. There has been a meeting there of the commission for regulating the conflict between Moldova and eastern Dnestr. An agreement was reached on the withdrawal of armed formations from the line where the conflicting sides come into contact, EKSPRESS KHRONIKA reported.

CIS General Holds Talks on Troop Deployment

AU0903213992 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Report by special envoy to Chisinau Gabriel Ionescu—recorded]

[Text] As announced, acts of terrorism against the peaceful population and legal bodies of the Republic of Moldova rayons on the left bank of the Dnestr River have exacerbated the social and political situation. The separatist leaders want at all costs to implement their illegitimate and anticonstitutional plans aimed at destroying the integrity of the independent and sovereign state of the Republic of Moldova—an appeal of the republic's Ministry of Interior reads. The ministry announces that anyone wanting to join the police organs and the Ministry of Interior riflemen troops can turn to the rayonal police sections to fill up the necessary joining forms.

Esteemed listeners, I would also like to tell you that Marshal Shaposhnikov's deputy, General (?Biankov), visited the capital city of the Republic of Moldova. He held talks at the headquarters of the Ministry of National Defense on the fate of the Soviet Armed Forces deployed on Moldova's territory. As President Mircea Snegur said last week before the parliament, in accordance with the Minsk understandings on 30 December 1991 and 14 February 1992, the Republic of Moldova is setting up its Armed Forces on the basis of the military units and subunits of the former Soviet Army deployed on its territory. The following units are currently deployed in Moldova: the Command of the South-South West Directorate, with its large units and service units; part of the 14th Infantry Army troops; military units and subunits; and central supply stores subordinated to the Odessa Military District. During the Minsk talks, agreement was reached to the extent that Moldova's Armed Forces should include all military units and subunits deployed in the republic, except for the 14th Army, which makes up 35 percent of the overall troops stationed in Moldova and is due to be withdrawn in one to one-and-a-half years, Mr. Mircea Snegur said in his speech.

However, the meeting between the representatives of the Ministry of National Defense and General (Biankov) did not finally solve the problem of the Armed Forces.

In an interview with Chisinau Radio Station, the republic's minister of national defense, Mr. Ion Costas, said that the deputy commander of the CIS Armed Forces came to Chisinau to convince the government to give in and agree to postpone the transfer of the Army to Moldova's subordination. In accordance with agreements to date, all military units on the right bank of the Dnestr River must be placed under the jurisdiction of Moldova's Ministry of National Defense, with the exception of the 14th Army deployed on the left bank of the Dnestr River, which will be withdrawn.

The problem of setting up the republic's Armed Forces is, however, blocked, Mr. Ion Costas said, because, on the one hand, the parliament has not yet passed the necessary package of bills and, on the other hand, in Shaposhnikov's opinion, some troops on the right bank of the Diestr allegedly are part of the strategic forces, hence, they should belong to the CIS, something that is unacceptable to the republic's leadership. In his interview with Chisinau Radio Station, the defense minister then listed the respective military units: the Assault Regiment deployed in Chisinau; the aviation regiment in Floresti Rayon; and the Tactical Operative Missiles Brigade in Balti area. Likewise, in the opinion of the leadership of the CIS Armed Forces, certain military depots will only partly be turned over to the Republic of Moldova. However, according to documents adopted by the republic, these military units and depots should be fully turned over to Moldova.

According to the minister of defense, the final accord on the transfer of the former Soviet Armed Forces to Moldova's subordination will have to be signed by Prime Minister Valeriu Muravschi and Marshal Shaposhnikov.

Dnestr Situation 'Bordering on Civil War'

OW1003110292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1019 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The President of the Dnestr River Valley Moldovan Republic Igor Smirnov has described the situation in the area as bordering on civil war. He spoke at an extraordinary session of the local parliament that opened in Tiraspol on Monday [9 March].

In his opinion, the parliament should decide on the possible place the republic in the state structure of the Republic of Moldova in order to preserve its integrity and to avert the threat of war [sentence as received].

Different opinions were voiced by speakers: to stick to the status of a sovereign state or to transform into a free economic zone in Moldova.

Local analysts believe that most deputies favor a federal structure of Moldova in which their territory would remain as a separate republic.

Kyrgyzstan

Parliament Investigates Barnaul Plane Transfer

LD0803140592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] As is known, 12 IL-39 planes were transferred to Barnaul on 20 February without any agreement with the leadership of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. Following this, the Kyrgyz parliament relieved General Viktor Belotskiy of his duties as commander of the aviation unit that the planes used to belong to.

RIA reports that it has become clear that Viktor Belotskiy was carrying out an order received from the Turkmenskiy military okrug. Having investigated this particular case, a parliamentary commission reached the conclusion not to relieve Belotskiy of his post. According to Feliks Kulov, vice president of the republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Supreme Soviet treated this decision with understanding and was satisfied. A separate agreement with Marshal Shaposhnikov is being prepared currently on central flight training courses situated in Tokmak, a suburb of Bishkek.

Plane Removal Said Unintentional

OW0603213892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Vice-President of Kyrgyzstan Feliks Kulov has said that the redeployment of 12 training military planes "L-39" from Kyrgyzstan to Russia on March 1 was an unintentional violation of CIS military agreements.

Kulov told a session of parliament in Bishkek on Friday [6 March] that the air force commanders of the Turkestan Military district had been unaware of the details of the agreement concluded by CIS member-states, which, among other things, banned any movements of military equipment from one former Soviet republic to another until March 20.

The Kyrgyz Vice President dismissed reports that the incident involving training planes caused a conflict between the leaders of Kyrgyzstan and Russia. Kulov said that the Commander-in-Chief of the CIS armed forces, Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov signed an order returning the planes to Kyrgyzstan in the presence of the Chairman of Kyrgyzstan's Defence Committee Dzhanybek Umetaliyev.

Aircraft Move Explained

PM0903165592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Mar 92 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Major General of Aviation Ya. Yanakov, deputy chief of the Air Force Military Training Schools, by Colonel A. Manushkin, followed by Editorial Office comment; place, date not given: "Why 12 Trainer Aircraft Flew From Bishkek to Barnaul"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] In connection with the issue raised by several mass media about the 12 trainer aircraft L-39 which flew over from the Republic of Kyrgyzstan into the territory of the Russian Federation, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's correspondent asked Major General of Aviation Ya. Yanakov, deputy chief of the Air Force Military Training Institutions, to comment on this event. This is what he said:

[Yanakov] The present training center in Bishkek is meant for foreigners. I must inform you that, in the former Soviet Union, two training institutions were involved in training foreign aviation specialists: Bishkek and Krasnodar. In connection with the fact that we have started demanding full compensation for expenditure on training, the number of students in them has fallen sharply since 1989. Thus, whereas there always used to be 2,300 foreigners training in Bishkek, in 1992 the number has been 160. Furthermore, only 52 of these are pilots. The situation is the same in the Krasnodar school. In this connection, it was decided back in 1989 to start a phased reduction of the training school units and subunits that are no longer involved in the training process.

The Bishkek training center has five training regiments in its staff and even more combat support units. It has 430 units of training and fighter aircraft and helicopters. In terms of numbers, this is approximately equal to the personnel of a formation (in an air force), although the training center has had only one task—training aviation cadres.

In connection with the sharp reduction in the numbers of trainees, I repeat, the intention is to halve the personnel of the training center in 1992-1993 as well. Incidentally, that is the fate awaiting all air force training institutions on Russia's territory. The only difference is that in many aviation schools in Russia (particularly in Barnaul, Kachin, Tambov, and Orenburg), they have outdated L-29 airplanes in their armaments, which were produced in 1962-1970. Because of their prolonged use, the training of students in the L-29's has become dangerous.

In the face of the reduction, we are sending the newer L-39 aircraft, which are now being released, to the air force schools to replace the outdated types. That is what happened in the case of the 12 L-30 aircraft flying from the Bishkek training center to the Barnaul school. They were transferred 27 February. Altogether it is planned to transfer 59 aircraft. Furthermore, I stress, all this work is being carried out systematically in accordance with the measures being taken to reorganize institutes of higher education ratified by a General Staff directive dated 29 August 1991. It was planned to transfer these airplanes to Barnaul back in October 1991, but because of bad weather and lack of organization, the task was not performed at the right time.

I am flying out to Bishkek in the next few days in order to coordinate all questions connected with the transfer of the L-39 trainer aircraft. [Yanakov ends]

From the Editorial Office: A press conference was held about this incident in the Directorate for Air Force Institutes of Higher Education, and the lawfulness of the military aviators' actions was seemingly proved. But all the same, you cannot help noticing that Russia is experiencing friction for the umpteenth time in the incipient division of the army with the former Union republics. Evidently, politicians need to elaborate and coordinate all questions more carefully so that people in uniform do not find themselves in the role of "scapegoats."

President on Unified Media, Russian Bias

OW1003025092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1906 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The President of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev believes that the CIS must have one news business space. He was speaking on Monday [2 March] at a conference with representatives of the leading central dailies, including Izvestiya, Selskaya Zhizhn (Rural Life), Trud (Labour), Komsomolskaya Pravda, Nezavisimaya Gazeta (Independent Newspaper) and others.

However, Akayev said that in the wake of the decay of the USSR many newspapers were biased in their coverage of events in favour of Russia. He said that news from Central Asian countries must take an appropriate space on newspaper pages, worthy of those countries' role in the life of the CIS in territorial, political and economic terms. Akayev believes that otherwise the central dailies will be faced with strong competition on the part of republican dailies in the near future.

The Kyrgyz President said he would like to see the press not just as an ally, but as an opponent, using civilized and constructive analysis and criticism to encourage thought and the search for solutions of problems.

President Alarmed About Rising Prices

LD0703062592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Askar Akayev, president of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, described the considerable price increases as an extraordinary event. According to Akayev, until now the republic has been strictly dependent on Russia and other CIS members.

Akayev corroborated his statement with figures. In 1992 the volume of goods deliveries to Kyrgyzstan from CIS members amounted to 5,000-200,000 rubles; Russia's share accounted for about half of the sum. As a kind of prisoner of the ruble zone, the president said, we find the republic drawn into a whirlpool of the dumping of money which is being carried out by a number of republics in connection with preparations for the introduction of national curencies.

Compared to last December, the index of price rises reached 209 percent in Kyrgyzstan.

'No Alternative' to Economic Reform Seen

OW0503130692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1034 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking in the Kyrgyz parliament on Thursday [5 March] President Askar Akayev said that there was no alternative to the economic reform. He said that accusations that the republic followed Russia's lead in raising prices and did not stick to its independence are "a lot of emotions and little realism".

Kyrgyzstan is dependent on Russia and other CIS countries, he said. In 1991 imports from CIS countries amounted to 5.2 bn [billion] roubles, 50% of them came from Russia.

President Akayev also said that the price reform prompts the necessity of a tough budget policy, structural changes in the economy, considerable cuts in the consumption of oil, gas, gasoline etc and a switching to electricity. Kyrgyzstan should find a different approach to energy supplies, otherwise it will have to spend all its national income on imports of fuel, the president said.

You can find the details of the speech in the Presidential Bulletin of March 5.

Parliament Discusses Government Reorganization

OW0403150992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliament of Kyrgyzstan began on Wednesday [4 March] to discuss a draft law dividing the powers of local administrations. Vice-President Feliks Kulov said the republic should expect as a result to get stronger executive bodies at the level of regions, cities and districts, and have the chief local administrators appointed by the president.

The presidiums of local Soviets (councils) will be dissolved. The Soviets themselves will be preserved in villages, cities, districts and regions as representative government bodies authorized to deal with budget formation and taxation. The Soviets will have the right to express no confidence in chief local administrators by a two-thirds majority of vote.

President Appeals for Social Harmony

LD0603211892 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] At the session of the Kyrgyzstan Supreme Soviet President Askar Akayev appealed to his compatriots to put aside discord and participate in building a new society with energy and enthusiasm. The social upheaval caused by the growth in prices and economic confusion

can be neutralized only by strong authority with support for its policies by various parties and movements.

In today's situation, Askar Akayev said, political immaturity and ambitious intent by leaders of parties and associations could lead to confrontation. Not everyone has yet realized that even in conditions of state sovereignty republic's economy is closely tied to Russia and other CIS countries.

Laws on International Bank Membership Approved

LD0803064592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] The Kyrgyz parliament has adopted laws on the republic's accession to international financial organizations. This includes the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the International Investment Corporation [as heard].

The Supreme Soviet session that ended on Friday [6 March] also adopted laws on holidays and veterinary science.

INTERFAX reports that the session will resume its work at the end of May.

Communists Reportedly Becoming More Active

OW0403180492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Leader of the "Kyrgyzstan" Democratic Movement Kazal Akmatov argues that former Communists are becoming more active in the current relatively calm political situation. They are seeking to broaden their social basis taking advantage of the lowering living standards in the country.

Akmatov mentioned criticism by the Kyrgyz Parliament of the Democratic Movement for actions aimed at dissolving the parliament and creating a permanent legislative body. In an interview with IF [INTERFAX] Wednesday [4 March] he said that such actions are natural for the parliamentarians 90% of whom are former Communist functionaries.

Akmatov sees another reason for the strengthening of hard-liners' influence in the passiveness of democratic forces after the administration of Askar Akayev came to power in Kyrgyzstan. It is possible, Akmatov noted, that "the offended old party nomenklatura is preparing to put up real opposition to the president and democratic reforms".

Council of Army Officer Assemblies Formed

LD1003122492 Moscow TASS in English 1041 GMT 10 Mar 92

[By KYRGYZTAG correspondent for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Bishkek March 10—The Council of Army Officer Assemblies from military units and subdivisions deployed on the Kyrgyz territory was formed here today. Its goal is to help armed forces personnel and their families solve their social and day-to-day problems. In addition, the Union of Retired Armed Forces Officers and Reserve Officers was also formed. Both public organizations intend to cooperate with the State Committee of Defence Affairs of Kyrgyzstan.

Tajikistan

Dushanbe Mayor Arrested; Procurator Explains

LD0603214492 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1800 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] The Tajik Supreme Soviet today adopted a decision on the arrest of Maksud Ikramov, Tajikistan people's deputy and chairman of Dushanbe City Executive Committee. Here to explain this is Ergashboy Kurbanov, chairman of Tajikistan Supreme Soviet Committee [on Issues of Legality, Law and Order, and Campaign Against Crime]:

[Kurbanov] Dear listeners and viewers, I would like to tell you that today the Tajik Supreme Soviet examined a report by Comrade [name indistinct], acting procurator of the Republic of Tajikistan, which mentions many violations of the laws of Tajikistan by the Dushanbe City Executive Committee, headed by its chairman Comrade Ikramov, and by Ikramov in the course of his duties. Under Articles 183 and 186 of the criminal code of the Republic of Tajikistan, these include misuse of authority and taking bribes.

I would like to add that during the investigations Comrade Ikramov disobeyed order by the group of investigators to appear before them and thus has shown disrespect for the law. There were many (?questions and answers), arguments and debates among the [people's] deputies of Tajikistan. Finally, the people's deputies agreed that Comrade Ikramov should be arrested and investigations to his criminal file (?continued).

Baker 'Sanctioned' Campaign

LD0703184292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1705 GMT 7 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Dushanbe—Tajikistan President Rakhman Nabiyev unleashed persecution of the democratic opposition as prompted by Baker, believes Shodmon Yusupov, chairman of Democratic Party of Tajikistan. Apprehension of Dushanbe Mayor Maksud Ikramov on March 6 on suspicion in bribery became the third in the procurator's office case against the Dushanbe city authorities. Earlier Viktor Tim, head of the dwelling communal service department of the Dushanbe city executive committee, had been arrested, as the opposition circles believe, for a framed bribe of rbs [rubles] 2

thousand. Later Saifidin Razykov, head of Express-Bank of the Dushanbe city executive committee, was arrested without presenting a sanction, allegedly in connection with the Tim's testimony in giving a bribe. On March 6 General Tukhta Pochmulloyev, acting republican procurator, tried and substantiated at a Supreme Soviet sitting the need in apprehending Ikramov. He referred to Tim's evidence that Tim gave Ikramov a bribe of rbs 100 thousand. The opposition circles pay attention to the fact that Razykov, head of Express-Bank, was arrested the day after James Baker left Dushanbe. Later, on February 24, the court heard the case of Mirbobo Mirrakhimov, leader of the popular movement Rastokhez, accused in slander of Tajikistan Supreme Soviet Chairman Safarali Kendzhayev. He was sentenced to 2 years with suspension of the sentence for 2 years in connection with the fact that he supported 6 children. Shodmon Yusupov, chairman of Democratic Party of Tajikistan, will have to appear in court as accused in insult of honor and dignity of President Rakhman Nabiyev. The opposition circles connect the start of the active campaign against the democratic opposition by the diplomatic demarche made by James Baker who sanctioned clandestinely the "communist" government of Nabiyev to start repressions against pro-Russian democrats and pro-Iranian Islamics in exchange for stability and refusal from a pro-Iranian path of development (or from orientation to Iran). Shodmon Yusupov believes that the discreditation of the democratic movement in the conservative social opinion in the republic may result in the advance to the foreground of the Islamic Party of Revival of Tajikistan which is going to be strengthened by both democrats and the carriers of extremist anti-Nabiyev and anti-American feelings of the pro-Islamic streak.

Opposition Demands Release

LD0803224692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 8 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Dushanbe town soviet has backed the authority for the arrest of Mayor Ikramov for accepting bribes. It is true, however, that only 10,000 rubles, $2, and several Iranian rials were found in his home during a search. The opposition demands that the mayor be released.

President Calls For State Plan on Agriculture

LD0503210592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1532 GMT 5 Mar 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] The Tajik President suggested on March 4 that the MPs [members of parliament] representing the agricultural sector draw up a state plan of agricultural production. Tajik president Rakhman Nabiyev conferred on March 4 with heads of parliamentary committees and MPs representing the agricultural sector. He urged them to understand the difficult situation of the government and agree to the introduction of fixed state purchasing prices of products of collective farms. Nabiyev said, in part:

Let us adopt a state plan of agricultural production. All that you produce over and above the plan will be yours. Agricultural workers from the Leninabad region agreed to give up their claim to 30 percent of their output, if we can supply them with fuel, machinery, fertilizers and essential consumer goods. The president and the government are pursuing a policy of levelling the living standards of urban and rural dwellers. The president is deeply concerned over the problems facing the rural areas. I wish you satisfied my request. [as received] The president urged MPs representing the agricultural sector to support his request and vote on March 5 for the changing of the resolution of the Supreme Soviet.

The parliamentary resolution on leaving 30 percent of the crops with collective and state farms for sales or barter deals is now in effect in Tajikistan. It was adopted during the Presidency of Kakhor Mahkamov, Nabiyev's predecessor.

Parliament Approves Laws on Land Reform, Farms

LD0603202392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] The parliament of Tajikistan has approved laws on the land reform and farms. All citizens have the right to lifetime ownership of land and also to starting their own farms. The land can also be inherited or leased to other people.

Republic Imposes Electricity Restrictions

PM0903114192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Karpov: "Nurek Hydroelectric Power Station Awaits Flood"]

[Text] Dushanbe—A tough, electricity-saving regimen has been introduced in Tajikistan.

Since early March, according to the schedule which has been approved, the electricity supply has been turned off for one to two hours throughout the republic. Industrial enterprises have been restricted to consuming 15 percent less electricity than normal.

This measure undertaken by "Tadzhikenergo" is an enforced one. Because of the shortage of fuel, Uzbekistan's power stations have drastically reduced the supply of electricty to neighboring Tajikistan. Here, to cover the needs of the national economy, they have had to place a heavy load on the units of the Nurek Hydroelectric Power Station, which has as a result led to a reduction in the water level in the reservoir. Specialists believe that the restrictions which have been introduced will last until mid-April at least, when the discharge of water on the river Vakhsh will increase as a result of the melting snow.

IMF Makes Recommendations for Economic Growth

OW0203221392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan will have to raise the prices of all subsidized foodstuffs, in the first place flour, 7-8 times, cut the subsidies of the housing rent and heating, and raise the housing rent 15 times before the mass privatization of homes can begin, IMF experts have said after looking into how Tajikistan can reduce the budget deficit. The IMF experts examined Tajikistan's banking, finances, economy and economic legislation.

The commission chief Walter Mahler, of the IMF's budget department, has told journalists that Tajikistan's budget deficit will exceed 50% by the end of the year, unless the measures are accepted. Tajikistan was also advised to reform taxation, cut the income tax and to avoid lifting taxes from unprofitable enterprises by any means.

Germany's Vogel Begins Visit to Dushanbe

LD0803135192 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian 1300 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Today Hans-Jochen Vogel, deputy chairman of Socialist International and Bundestag deputy, arrived in Dushanbe, the republic's capital. [passage omitted]

At the airport Hans-Jochen Vogel was met by chairmen of the committees of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic, Davron Ashurov, [name indistinct] and others. Today Hans-Jochen will meet with Rakhman Nabiyev, president of the republic. Talks will also take place with the Supreme Soviet committee for culture and international affairs and in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Tomorrow Hans-Jochen Vogel will visit one of the churches in Dushanbe and will meet with the residents of the capital of German nationality. That same day the deputy chairman of Socialism International and the officials accompanying him will fly to Tashkent.

Nabiyev on Helsinki Trip, Importance of Islam

LD0303111992 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1800 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Speech by Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Peace be upon you dear compatriots, I and a delegation from Tajikistan returned home (?yesterday) from a visit to Helsinki. On our way to Helsinki on the plane, we joined esteemed Uzbek President Islam Abdughaniyevich Karimov and during 10 hours we discussed many issues relating to cooperation between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. I am pleased to say that on many issues our views were similar. In Helsinki, together with the leaders of Belarus, Moldova, Uzbekistan and Ukraine we attended the signing ceremony of the final and consultative documents of CSCE.

We were received by esteemed Finnish President Mauno Koivisto and other official persons of that country. Frank and useful talks were held on all-around cooperation between the two sovereign states of Tajikistan and Finland. We pledged to study each other countries' possibilities and cooperate in various fields of the economy and culture. To this effect, we resolved to establish diplomatic relations between the two states.

You might ask the meaning of us joining the CSCE organization while leaving out our immediate neighbors. I should say that in view of specific difficulties in arranging the government structure, the introduction of a self-acting mechanism for market economy and a reasonable solution to remove numerous economic difficulties, we temporarily have no possibility of foreign [word indistinct].

At present, a group of experts are working on the draft constitution of the republic which ought to reflect the present realities following declaration of sovereignty by Tajikistan. The new structure of the government of Tajikistan is in its final stages, which will be proposed to a regular session of the Supreme Soviet. (?That is why) my 24-hour visit to Finland was not an official visit, it took place just to sign the final document of the CSCE.

Tajikistan will become a full member of the United Nations Organization on (?2) March, and our flag will fly over the headquarters of this organization. On the eve of this historic event, we decided to place our signature on the most important document of our times, and once again manifest our loyalty to the principles of the United Nations.

Why are we attaching great importance to the European Community? The fact is that without cooperation with the advanced countries of Europe and America, who (?portray) the vision of the civilized world, we cannot achieve our development, and it would be impossible for us to gain world prestige. Second, we have to study carefully the structure of government and the mechanism of management of the economy in those countries, which have passed the test of history, and should build a democracy which will guarantee one's utilization of his ability and enterprise. This never means that we will cut our own historic roots and join the European Community.

At the ceremony of signing the final [CSCE] document, I said and once again repeat that Tajikistan wants to graft the humanitarian values of modern democracy to its 1,000-year-old civilization. I should also add that the democratic values of the West have not come from the heaven; they are the results of wise study of the democratic experiences of all peoples of the world, including the experiences of the 1,000-year-old civilization of the old Iranians, which are unfortunately been forgotten as a result of rule by [word indistinct] ideologists.

Efforts by various political circles, who want to put Western and Eastern civilizations against each other, and who on the one hand (?warn) us of fundamentalist Islamic extremism and on the other hand of the U.S.

influence, are in vain. Our people have been the followers of the sacred religion of Islam for more than 1,000 years and will remain so. No such a power exists that could lessen the beliefs of our people. This even is true of the totalitarian regime who wanted to force atheism on our people [words indistinct].

Being afraid of the influence of the United States is also (?a kind of) extremism. Every one is aware of the great services rendered by the United States for the advancement of technology in Europe, [word indistinct], Japan and the Far East, and also that it has not colonized any country, and could not do so in accordance with the Helsinki documents.

We will organize our international policy, and without any fear we will establish neutral, open, and equal relations with all peoples of the world without joining any military blocs and ideological organizations. Our policy is the policy of an independent state with the equality of rights. Those who want to bring us under their influence are badly mistaken. We will go our own way—the way to cooperation with all peoples of the world—and will learn from the achievements of both the East and West. We will strive to take our homeland out the economic crisis, see our people prosperous, free and an equal member of the world community.

With this noble desire, I and my colleagues are working in the government and hope that our people too will support their legally elected government and sincerely strive for enhancing the prestige of the republic. We can no longer wait for aid from outsiders. We ought to make ourselves prosperous with our own fruitful work. Even for developed countries material comforts do not come from heavens, they have learned productive labor. We too ought to learn their experiences and should put 100 times more effort, because blessing comes from labor. I wish you all good health and fruitful work.

Communist Leader on Contest With Islam

MK2802123092 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian No 8, 27 Feb 92 p 4

[Interview with 46-year-old Shodi Shabdolov, chairman of the Tajik Communist Party, by correspondent Yuriy Kravtsov in Dushanbe; date not given: "Between Islamic Fundamentalism and Communism With an Eastern Face. Builders of 'Glorious Future' Emerging From Trenches in Tajikistan, but Complaining: 'We Have Been Left One-on-One With Islamic Fundamentalism and an Impoverished People'"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Kravtsov] Talking about the revival of the Communist Party, this evidently did not occur without losses?

[Shabdolov] Until our activity was suspended or, more accurately, until the temporary ban, there were 125,000 Communists in the republic. That is extremely impressive—in Tajikistan there are just 5.5 million people. We have now begun to review our ranks, so to speak. The party's numbers will probably diminish. But we are not very bothered about the number of people who describe themselves as communists. In the current situation the most convinced people will stay in the party, and that is the main thing.

[Kravtsov] By changing the program and the statutes, the Communists are thus trying to adapt to the new changes?

[Shabdolov] We are renouncing our vanguard role and mission as the repositories of a state ideology. While we do not consider communism a viable formation in the forseeable future, we are setting about asserting socialism as a role model for development. We allow the existence of all forms of ownership, including private ownership. After all, one of the Communism's main failures was the fact that it did not prove possible to implement the principle of "to each according to his labor." Socialism constitutes the model for a transition-type formation moving away from the old society based on private ownership to a society based on all forms of ownership. it seems naturally reasonable not to hand over to private operators the health service, transport, communications, and, of course, defense. Our new program does not require commitment to a materialist view. We are living not in Luxembourg, but in the East, where Islam's influence is strong. I am referring to religion as a form, as a type of culture. In this unique atmosphere it is important for us to ensure that a person acknowledges our program, and whether or not he is an atheist is his own personal affair.

[Kravtsov] Yet it is no secret that for all this transformation of once "indestructible principles" the Communist Party sees Islamic forces as its main adversary.

[Shabdolov] Correct. I am talking about Islamic fundamentalism, which blatantly wants power, and the only force capable of preventing this is the Communist Party. Other political forces may waver between us and our opponent; they do not have firm enough positions.

[Kravtsov] Your confidence cannot help but impress us, but do you have enough support among people?

[Shabdolov] Here are the figures from an independent sociological poll conducted among voters when the Communist Party was removed from its involvement in political affairs. Some 41 percent of voters voted in favor of the Communist Party's existence. Roughly 5 and 6 percent respectively considered themselves supporters of the Islamic Revival Party and the Democratic Party and "Rastokhez" movement. Some 41 percent also voted in favor of a democratized Soviet state, while 5 percent voted in favor of creating an Islamic state (8 percent of rural inhabitants), and 33 percent of respondents voted in favor of a Western-type democratic state.

[Kravtsov] If we rely on these figures, what in your opinion is the reason for such inescapable sympathy for the Communist Party and the soviets?

[Shabdolov] People associate with the soviets the revival of statehood in 1924. Until then the Tajiks' first and almost last state in 900 years was in the Samanids' time. Moreover, Tajikistan is a rural country; 3.5 million

people live in villages. This is a special kind of environment, and not only many rank-and-file party members but also party leaders have links with it. For centuries there was an invariable gravitation toward the communal way of life in the East. Rulers never encroached on the foundations of the community. Even conquerors like Genghis Khan did not venture to do so, realizing or sensing intuitively that the rebuff would be crushing. The Communists and the Soviet authorities also took all this into consideration, although not very consistently. Now look: How easily the kolkhozes [collective farms] fit into the communal way of life. That is the whole secret. Some day urbanization will change the picture. But now the overwhelming majority of Tajiks support the old saying: God created the countryside, and man built the city.

[Kravtsov] In other words, the aim is to revive a state based on communist ideology modified to suit local conditions? Is this possible, given the obvious increasing influence of revived Islam?

[Shabdolov] In the present situation no party on its own will be able to govern the republic... What happened when the CIS began to be set up is beneficial to large countries, while small ones like Tajikistan come off the losers and have become the victims in a big political game. For several decades we were made to put everything into a general melting pot and sacrifice our own interests for the sake of the common good and the common idea. Now, after taking virtually everything, people are saying: You are free. We have been left one-on-one with Islamic fundamentalism, with debts, and a catastrophically poor people... As for Islam, there are enough representatives of the loyal clergy. They do not aspire to political power and we have already secured sufficient mutual understanding with them now. But the Communists will never support the idea of creating an Islamic state. However, as I have already said, we have nothing against Islam or any other religion: We clearly see today in rejecting our former ideological dogmas that the ideas of Western Marxism do not suit us. [passage omitted].

Turkmenistan

Council Decides Not To Resume Gas Deliveries

OW1003032892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1809 GMT 9 Mar 92

[From the "Interfax Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a meeting on Monday [9 March] Turkmenistan's presidential council decided not to resume gas deliveries to Ukraine until a treaty on prices has been signed. This decision was made after discussing the results of negotiations held last week in Moscow by delegations from the two republics.

Gas deliveries were halted 29 February when Ukraine demanded that transportation costs (about 770 rubles per 1000 cubic [cu.] meters of gas), be included in Turkmenistan's asking price for the gas, which was 800 rubles per 1000 cu. meters. Now the Turkmen side is no longer asking 800 but 2000 rubles per 1000 cu. meters of gas, not including transit and transportation costs beyond the republic's borders.

Niyazov on Relations With Ukraine

LD0803220492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1510 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Interview with Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov by unidentified correspondent on 6 March, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] [Ukrainian] Prime Minister Fokin made his statement on prices for Turkmen gas three days ago, and many viewers were expecting your reply yesterday and the day before yesterday, but you have only agreed to an interview today. What have you been waiting for?

[Niyazov] I am not dramatizing the situation that has developed. At present, when all the Commonwealth countries are experiencing economic and political problems, one ought not to make statements in what I feel is an ill-considered, hasty manner.

[Correspondent] All the same, he made accusations along the lines that Turkmenistan wanted to solve its own problems at the expense of the interests of the Ukrainian people.

[Niyazov] I do not think Vitold Pavlovich Fokin did his sums properly before he said all that. We are not laying claim to anybody's wealth. The fact that Turkmenistan has been a raw materials appendage is already having a strong effect on our economy today. After all, nobody asked us when the prices of consumer goods and foodstuffs were raised. While it delivers raw materials resources beyond the republic's borders, Turkmenistan has begun receiving products at completely different prices, which are 10, 20, and sometimes 100 times higher than they were. Turkmenistan lost over 23 billion rubles [R] in this way last year alone. The revenue part of Turkmenistan's budget has put us on the verge of a financial catastrophe. We believe that in these circumstances we do not have the right to sell our raw materials for a song. In these circumstances we are doing great harm to our population, our people.

So it is as in any civilized state. Although Comrade Fokin called our methods uncivilized, these are the most civilized methods: That there should be equal exchange in economic relations and that world prices should be reached in relations between newly formed states. Today if we take account of the interests of one side and neglect the interests of another side, that would not be normal economic cooperation, of course.

[Correspondent] Even while reaching second place in the country for gas production, we only supply 7 percent of our villages with this natural gas and destroy the natural

environment. After all, all the haloxylon [tree corresponding to Russian "saksaul"] woods in the desert have been felled for fuel. And we have no coal basins. And that is something that our CIS partners should no doubt understand.

[Niyazov] I think it is not just that. This situation continues despite the fact that the Turkmen Government is making the first attempts to rectify the situation. More than that, Turkmen gas is extracted in 45 degrees [centigrade] of heat and with shortages of normal drinking water and proper living conditions. Tens of thousands of workers and specialists work in the desolate Karakumy region. And I think that for us, the leaders of Turkmenistan, it would simply be a big mistake today to betray their interests for the sake of the interests of a third party. We will not allow that. When we said that given the situation in the Ukraine we would agree to supply gas to the Ukraine for six months or a year—large amounts of gas, moreover: 29,000 million cubic meters—at a price of R800, we were making concessions even then. And Comrade Fokin in my office agreed that this was the case. But I sense that Comrade Fokin evidently failed to work it all out fully. If we are to be in the business of mutually advantageous cooperation in which no side's interests are infringed, we should conclude the same sort of agreements as we concluded with Russia and the Transcaucasian republics. For example, we concluded a contract with Russia for the supply of over 11,000 million cubic meters of Turkmen gas, with payment calculated in terms of world prices. Here is the contract in front of me. We have the same sort of contract with the Transcaucasian republics. We are supplying more than 4,000 million cubic meters to Azerbaijan, more than 5,000 million to Armenia, and 5,000 million cubic meters of gas to Georgia.

But these republics are not in a better position in comparison with Ukraine. Gas which we supply to them, they pay for at world prices, using a clearing system, in U.S. dollars. At the same time the registration of mutual supplies of products takes place once a quarter of a year and the balance of mutual supplies is defined. As for the other states formed in the former union—we have similar treaties with Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, and at the same time the price of gas is much higher than the price we let Ukraine have. While a Ukrainian delegation headed by Fokin was staying here, they apparently hoped that Turkmenistan, which gets foodstuffs and a number of mechanisms and machinery from Ukraine, will be forced to go for it. No. Taking into account difficulties with foodstuffs and medicine we receive a number of essential articles and goods from abroad. We do not pursue the aim of living off someone. It is not in our character.

[Correspondent] The doors are evidently still open for the negotiations with this state, the largest [except Russia] in the CIS.

[Niyazov] The Ukrainian leadership proposed yesterday that talks should open in Moscow, and I have sent my deputy, two deputies, for talks in Moscow. They will be holding talks with Fokin's deputy today about concluding an agreement on gas supplies to the Ukraine. But now the price of gas must be close to world prices. And we are also willing to purchase output, machines, and machinery from the Ukraine at world prices. Unless we are guided by some sort of a common criteria in our payments, naturally, we will not succeed. Both the Ukrainian Government and the Government of Turkmenistan have an interest in achieving a common agreement.

Cooperation Agreements Reached With Turkey

NC0703074692 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 2 Mar 92 p 7

[Nur Batur report: "Wealthy Turkmenistan Even Needs a Few Cents"]

[Excerpts] We flew from Baku to Ashkhabad over the Karakum Desert at an altitude of 9,000 meters. The flight took one and a half hours. Turkmenistan has the richest natural gas resources among the Turkic republics... [ellipses as published] [passage omitted]

However, that country "even needs a few cents." [passage omitted]

The Turkmen people were more than warm in welcoming the Turkish delegation. Their approach was not similar to the businesslike approach maintained by Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov in Azerbaijan. They said they would welcome any kind of help. In fact, the atmosphere of the talks with President M. Niyazov was more sincere, and more concrete results were achieved in Ashkhabad than in Azerbaijan.

The decisions adopted in Turkmenistan can be listed as follows:

1. Turkmenistan will send a delegation of 12 Foreign Ministry officials to Ankara in April to work with the Turkish diplomats to establish the basis of the cooperation between the two countries.

2. Measures will be taken to encourage Turkish banks to open branches in Ashkhabad as soon as possible. An opportunity will be created for the training of 20 Turkmen banking officials in Turkey.

3. Turkey will beam Turkish Radio and Television telecasts to Ashkhabad. Measures will be taken to resolve the question of technical requirements in that regard as soon as possible.

4. Turkmenistan has decided to adopt the Latin alphabet. Turkey will assist that country in establishing

its new printing industry, which will use the Latin alphabet.

5. Of course, the most important project the two countries have agreed on is related to the laying of a natural gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Turkey. The pipeline may be extended from Turkey to Europe in the future. The laying of the Turkmenistan-Turkey pipeline will cost $9 million or $10 million. Will Turkey be able to organize and finance this project? [passage omitted]

If an effort is made to realize all the decisions adopted between the two countries quickly then the Turkmen people will not be disappointed because they need every kind of support Turkey can give them.

Armenia

Azerbaijani Armed Units Said To Enter Armenia

LD1003115292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Information sources in Yerevan report that Azerbaijani armed units have crossed the Armenian border and are conducting combat operations on the territory of the republic. Baku denies these reports, and more than that, according to an AZERINFORM correspondent there has been a telephone conversation between Azerbaijani acting President Yakub Mamedov and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. The leaders exchanged views on the situation developing in Nagorno-Karabakh and on ways of resolving the conflict.

'Danger' Seen in New Azerbaijani Leadership

PM0903210092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Sergey Bablumyan: "L. Ter-Petrosyan Concerned About the Change of Leadership in Baku"]

[Text] Yerevan—Levon Ter-Petrosyan's initial reaction to the changes in the Azerbaijan top leadership has become known from the Armenian president's press service.

The Armenian president expressed the hope that the new authorities in the neighboring republic would not follow the path of Ayaz Mutalibov and would not play the Nagorno-Karabakh card to obtain political dividends.

At the same time, the president sees an element of danger in the new leadership's political course unless it is adjusted in line with existing realities. According to Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the danger stems primarily from the desire of the new leaders of Azerbaijan, who accused Ayaz Mutalibov of indecision, to try to continue more rigorously and on a larger scale the process of the compulsory deportation of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh. Moreover, the Armenian president noted that, unfortunately, his predictions are being borne out even now.

Armenian 'Militants' Attack CIS Unit, Kill 2

LD0903134592 Moscow TASS in English 1342 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 9 TASS—Two soldiers were killed and several wounded in an Armenian attack on Sunday [7 March] afternoon on the military township of a an air-defence unit located near the town of Artik in Armenia, TASS learned today from the press centre of the CIS Armed Forces.

Some 60 gunmen blocked the township, opened fire at it from the roofs of the nearby houses and demanded the military to surrender, open the depots and abandon the township.

The commander of the unit, Colonel Reshetnikov, and his senior officers were earlier summoned for a meeting to the city council where they were taken hostage.

Only after several appeals to the Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan from the command of the 7th Army, to which the air-defence unit is subordinate, did the Armeniam militants cease fire.

Turkish Military Maneuvers on Border Reported

LD0903121792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 9 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports that, according to informed sources here, professional motorized infantries of the Turkish Armed Forces have been entering the neutral zone along the border with Armenia over the past two days. On the evening of 8 March they performed military maneuvers and training along a line between Kars, (Ani), and Igdir.

Yerevan Reports on Fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh

Askeran, Nakhichevan Attacked

OW0603195592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Well-informed sources in Yerevan told INTERFAX that on Friday [6 March], Azeri armed units supported by nearly 10 tanks and 20 armored personnel carriers launched a massed offensive on the regional center Askeran in Nagorno-Karabakh and rushed into the city in the evening. Street fighting is going on in Askeran where 15,000 Armenians live.

Reports say Azeri forces are also attacking the village of Nakhichevan of the Askeran region.

The "Lur" information center reports Friday morning Azeri forces used a "Grad" rocket system to shell the regional center Martuni from their position in the village of Amirallar. On the same day two Armenian villages of the Martuni region came under fire from the direction of Azerbaijan's Fizulinsky region. Martuni and both villages suffered serious damage. A number of casualties is being determined.

Askeran Surrender 'Refuted'

OW0903124392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1105 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia's defense minister Vazgen Sarkisyan has refuted allegations that the Armenian self-defense units may soon surrender the district center of Askeran in Nagorno-Karabakh. Speaking on the republican radio, he expressed confidence that the Armenian positions were strong enough to sustain the vigorous attacks of the Azeri forces.

The minister said the Armenian positions could further be strengthened through the use of Stepanakert (Khankendy) airport as a base for fuel supplies.

On Sunday [8 March] Askeran came under heavy artillery and missile fire from the Azeri positions.

The interior department in Nagorno-Karabakh has cited a radio message intercepted in the warfare area as saying that units of the 4th army of the CIS armed forces were fighting on the Azeri side.

Meanwhile, the Azeri interior department has reported that missile and artillery attacks on a number of places in Azerbaijan's Tauz district resulted in the death of two women on Sunday. As ALAZAN missiles were fired on the city of Agdam, 9 buildings were destroyed and 2 persons injured. The Armenians are said to have attempted an attack on Agdam, during which 2 people were killed and 8 wounded on the Azeri side.

Shelling of Villages Continues

NC0803173892 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1500 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's Supreme Soviet Press Center reports that Azerbaijanis used howitzers to shell Karmiravan, in Mardakertskiy Rayon, early in the morning of 8 March. Fourteen shells were fired at the village, destroying four buildings. Preliminary reports indicate that there are no casualties.

The Shaumyanov rayon center was shelled as well. Askeran came under continuous gunfire and artillery fire yesterday night and today. The Armenian freedom fighters have apparently broken the enemy's [word indistinct].

This afternoon, Azerbaijani forces began shelling the Armenian-inhabited village of Karachinar, located in Shaumyanovskiy Rayon, from positions in Shafak in the same rayon. Armenians are returning their fire and the fight is continuing.

Nagorno-Karabakh To Send Representatives Abroad

NC0903213692 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Yerevan, 6 Mar (ARMENPRES)—The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium will appoint plenipotentiary representatives to certain countries and international organizations to defend the republic's interests. The Supreme Soviet Presidium has authorized its chairman to appoint, in exceptional circumstances, special plenipotentiaries to defend its interests in various countries and organizations.

21 Reported Dead, 48 Injured in Explosion

NC0903204492 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1950 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] It is still early to draw conclusions about the Shengavit explosion which resulted in many deaths. The causes of that tragedy are being examined. But it remains indisputable that because of someone's carelessness, scores of families suffered, State Minister Vigen Chitechiyan, chairman of the governmental commission investigating the incident, said in a statement to an ARMENPRES correspondent.

As a result of the explosion, 18 people died at the scene and three more in the hospital. Forty-eight people are now in hospitals with various degrees of injures. Forty-five families have become homeless.

The state minister said that the final conclusions will be drawn later. We have to find out the reason for the explosion. The procuracy is working with the governmental committee. It has already instituted criminal proceedings.

Azerbaijan

Presidential Elections Not Expected Soon

LD1003115492 Moscow TASS in English 1020 GMT 10 Mar 92

[By AZERINFORM writer Fikret Sadykhov]

[Text] Baku March 10 TASS—The upcoming session of the Azerbaijani parliament might clear up the political situation in the republic after the resignation of President Ayaz Mutalibov. However, it is believed in the local political circles that new presidential elections will not be held in Azerbaijan in the near future. The absence of the post of president will free the republic from unnecessary political rivalry and material expenses.

Despite the political uncertainty it may be clearly stated that the new republican leadership fully controls the situation. "The Tbilisi variant" will not occur in Baku.

Yakub Mamedov, the new parliamentary speaker and acting head of state, appealed last Sunday [8 March] to the people saying he will resolutely fight those who want to seed discord between Russia and Azerbaijan and create "unacceptable feelings" towards the Russian-speaking population.

Great hopes in the republic are connected with the new coalition government which Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov was authorised to form by the parliament.

The developments in Nagorno-Karabakh are attentively followed in the republic. The shock over the Khodzhaly tragedy has not yet passed.

Mamedov had a telephone talk with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and parliamentary speaker Babken Ararktsyan to discuss the latest developments in Nagorno-Karabakh and ways to settle the conflict.

Mamedov Comments on Problems, Human Rights

LD0903182692 Moscow TASS in English 1753 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Report by AZERINFORM correspondent Natan Barskiy]

[Text] Baku March 9 TASS—Azerbaijani parliamentary speaker Yakub Mamedov has assured the Republic's population that "the state guarantees the implementation of law as well as the protection of order and rights of all people living in the Republic regardless of their nationality or faith."

In his appeal Mamedov, who took over the presidency after President Ayaz Mutalibov resigned last week, stressed that "the constitution of Azerbaijan is still valid and the executive and legislative powers are acting at full capacity."

Mamedov praised the Azerbaijani president's decision to resign as an attempt to end confrontation in the Republic.

Azerbaijan must develop new relations with the Commonwealth of Independent States as well as with the world community, settle the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, help refugees, protect the state border and develop ties with the Nakhichevan republic, Mamedov said, adding "we should draw a lesson from the last four years and fight against forces sowing discord between Azerbaijan and Russia and provoking a negative attitude toward Russians living in the Republic."

He said parliament is taking urgent measures to consolidate society and is searching for ways to bring Azerbaijan out of its current crisis.

Comments on Mutalibov Resignation Reported

People's Front 'Satisfied'

MK1003085592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Mar 92 p 3

[Aydyn Mekhtiyev report: "People's Front Satisfied. So Far Everything Is Going According to Plan"]

[Text] After Ayaz Mutalibov announced his resignation from the post of president the Supreme Soviet adopted a law on the inviolability of the person of the first president. The deputies decided to grant Mutalibov a lifetime pension of 10,000 rubles per month, a personal car, a dacha, and 10 bodyguards.

Then, at the proposal of the parliamentary opposition, the Supreme Soviet dissolved the republic's Cabinet of Ministers and granted current Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov the right to form a new cabinet within 10 days. Then a recess was declared in the work of the emergency session until 10 March.

A session of the Azerbaijan People's Front [APF] Supreme Medzhlis was held at APF headquarters to discuss the sociopolitical situation in the republic. Medzhlis representative Arif Gadzhiyev read out a telegram from Chechen Republic President Dzhakhar Dudayev expressing support for the policy pursued by the People's Front.

In his report Arif Gadzhiyev noted with satisfaction that the resolution of the previous session of the APF Medzhlis has been successfully implemented: Ayaz Mutalibov has voluntarily resigned. Gadzhiyev noted that, thanks to the APF Board's sensible decision to postpone indefinitely the opposition rally scheduled for 29 February, it proved possible to thwart the scheme of the ruling regime, which was intending to provoke an exchange of fire at the rally and then to introduce a state of emergency in Baku.

The APF Medzhlis session decided to address to the Supreme Soviet a proposal to place on the agenda of the emergency session of the republic's parliament under way in Baku the question of abolishing the institution of the presidency in Azerbaijan and temporarily transferring power to the National Council (lesser parliament).

In a speech on republic television APF leader Abulfas Elchi-bey stated that a coalition government of people's trust will soon be formed and will be capable of defending Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and ensuring the safety of the Azerbaijani population in the conflict zone. Many observers agree that the key portfolios in the new Cabinet of Ministers will go to representatives of the People's Front, although Gasan Gasanov, head of the former cabinet, may remain prime minister.

Russian Role Criticized

PM1003120392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Mar 92 First Edition p 7

[INTERSEPT report under the "Events" rubric: "What Is the Leader's Replacement Preparing?"]

[Text] An ally of Mutalibov has been appointed temporarily to his post. He is the former apparatchik Yakub Mamedov, who is regarded in Baku as a puppet of the radical nationalists who possess the real power, so the BBC believes. One of these is Tofik Gasymov, former leader of the opposition People's Front and now head of the commission to prepare the constitution and strengthen Azerbaijan's independence. He declared in a conversation that it had been wrong of the former president to seek Moscow's assistance in settling the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. Russia, Gasymov said, is only interested in setting the peoples of the Transcaucasus against each other so as to maintain its influence there. According to him, the CIS is in turn a tool of Russia's imperialist policy, just as the former Soviet Union was.

Now, according to Gasymov, Azerbaijan should, above all, reinforce the border with Armenia so as to stop the transfer of volunteers, weapons, and ammunition to Nagorno-Karabakh. In order to close the border and prevent further attacks on Azerbaijani villages in and

around Nagorno-Karabakh, Gasymov said, a regular army of 20,000-30,000 men is needed.

Position of Radicals 'Strengthened'

LD0903142892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] At the end of the week events in Azerbaijan took a dramatic turn. Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov resigned under massive pressure from the opposition. This is how correspondent Andrey Krasnov views the new situation:

[Krasnov] Coups occur in different ways. Presidents are sometimes overthrown by the army. In a number of instances politicians resign under pressure from parliament. But in Baku the head of the state was overthrown by the mob. For hours on end thousands of demonstrators blockaded the Azerbaijani Parliament, demanding Ayaz Mutalibov's resignation. The Azerbaijani People's Front moved boldly, blaming the former president for the military reverses of recent weeks. The opposition accused Ayaz Mutalibov of indecision and political shortsightedness. It wanted power and got it.

After unprecedented pressure from the crowd of demonstrators, Mutalibov's nerve gave way and he left the stage. Admittedly, he was given a fitting farewell. Parliament allocated him a house in Baku, a constant bodyguard and an inflation-proofed pension of 10,000 rubles. So the former president's future is relatively well provided for.

However, the future of Azerbaijan itself remains confused. As you know, parliament dissolved the government after Mutalibov's resignation. It gave the prime minister, Gasan Gasanov, 10 days in which to form a new cabinet. Yakub Mamedov, the present speaker of the Azerbaijani Parliament, is now acting head of state. Observers believe that the most radical section of the People's Front will come to power in Baku very soon. For a long time now the Front has been demanding decisive action in Nagorno-Karabakh. Now it seems that this will start. At all events, Gasan Gasanov has already stated that Azerbaijan will continue the struggle until the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh either leave or surrender.

During the last 24 hours hostilities in this region have sharply escalated and assumed an increasingly large scale. It is already obvious that, with the departure of Ayaz Mutalibov, the situation in the Caucasus will deteriorate sharply.

Whatever anyone may say, the former president personified a relatively moderate line in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. For a long time Ayaz Mutalibov managed to defuse the most extreme forms of Azerbaijani nationalism.

The alignment of forces has now abruptly changed. The withdrawal of the CIS forces from Nagorno-Karabakh and Mutalibov's resignation have greatly strengthened the positions of Azerbaijani radicals. It can be assumed that the result in Nagorno-Karabakh will be, not a horrible end, but unending horror.

Military Criticized

LD0903071892 Moscow TASS in English 0629 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 9 TASS—Azerbaijan's military failure in Nagorno-Karabakh is a consequence of the old command-administrative system that has been left intact in the republic and has led to Ayaz Mutalibov's resignation, according to Eldar Namazov, director general of Baku's Independent Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The old system was inefficient in all spheres of public life, Namazov said in a commentary broadcast by Channel One Television on Sunday [8 Sunday].

With Mutalibov's resignation, the process of dismantling the system, interrupted in January 1990 by the deployment of troops to Baku, has resumed, the expert said.

A gradual transition of power to the opposition is important for normalizing the political situation in Azerbaijan, Namazov believes. The current balance of political forces in the republic should help this.

Experts at the Center for Strategic and International Studies believe that Azerbaijan's new authorities, representing the opposition, are prepared to resolve the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh peacefully.

The United Nations "blue helmets" could also take part in settling the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the commentary stressed. Their involvement should be in the framework of a complex plan, ensuring Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, the right of the ethnic minority for self-government in Nagorno-Karabakh and the withdrawal of all armed units from the conflict zone.

The research center believes that the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh has become a model that could be repeated in other republics. Leaders of countries at the meeting in Kiev, scheduled for March 20, should pay more attention to resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis.

Armenian Attacks in Nagorno-Karabakh Reported

NC1003071792 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 0430 GMT 10 Mar 92

[From the "Morning Information Program" presented by journalist Geydar Zeynalov]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We were able to contact Azerbaijan's border rayons by telephone yesterday. [Name indistinct] informed us that telephone links with various areas in Kubatlinskiy Rayon were disrupted. The information we have received is as follows:

The Terterskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Department has disclosed that the rayon center was attacked by the Armenians from the direction of the town of

Manuchevan in Agdara Rayon on 9 March. The self-defense forces warded off the attack. The situation in the rayon center and border towns continues to be tense.

Agdam City was bombarded by artillery units and crystal-type [kristal tipi] missiles were fired from the towns of Khanabad and Nakhichevanik in Khodzhalinskiy Rayon once again on the night of 7 March. According to the Internal Affairs Department in Nagorno-Karabakh, significant damage has been caused in the city. One person was killed.

Sahip Alekperov, head of the Kel'badzharskiy Rayon Executive Authority, has disclosed that a large group of armed Armenians and many armored vehicles have assembled in the border area of Armenia's Vardenisskiy Rayon during the past few days. Armed groups and armored vehicles are being transported by helicopter from the border areas in Armenia to [name indistinct] and (Shefek) towns in Agdara Rayon.

Militia Captain Kerimov, [words indistinct] Gorenboyskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Department, has disclosed that the towns of Shefek and Todan in the rayon were fired on by the Armenian bandits in the towns of Karachinar, Buzluk, and Erkech on 9 March. The defenders of the rayon returned the fire. No one was hurt.

We have also been informed that the towns of Alibeyli and Agdam were subjected to rocket attacks from the Shamshadinskiy Rayon in Armenia on 8 March. The attacks destroyed 11 houses in the two towns. A woman was killed in the town of Alibeyli during the attack. The situation in the border towns continues to be tense. [passage omitted]

Helicopters Join Combat

LD0903163492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 9 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Nagorno-Karabakh—The Armenian-Azerbaijan war is the fiercest and bloodiest conflict in the world to date.

According to the latest reports, following in the wake of armored equipment, military helicopters are now engaging in combat. The Nagorno-Karabakh Directorate of Internal Affairs reports that the Armenian-populated village of Karanchinar, in Shaumyanovskiy Rayon [in Azerbaijan], was strafed from the air. The same sources maintain that, according to a radio intercept, subunits of CIS forces are fighting on Azerbaijan's side.

Meanwhile, Yerevan is doing everything to ensure that Nagorno-Karabakh remains an impregnable fortress. Askeran is a key center of resistance. We do not intend to surrender Askeran, Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan said on republic radio. The defense positions are sound there and are capable of repelling attacks by the Azerbaijan army, the minister added.

Meanwhile, Baku reports casualties from rocket and artillery bombardments of villages in Tauzskiy rayon and the town of Agdam. Last night, two women perished there and nine houses were destroyed.

2,000 Azerbaijanis Said Captives

LD1003103192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 10 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The People's Front of Azerbaijan stated that around 2,000 Azerbaijanis are being held captive by Armenia. The Armenian side is demanding fuel and foodstuffs in exchange for the prisoners, according to a TURAN agency report citing the Agdam branch of the People's Front of Azerbaijan.

Georgia

Further on Shevardnadze Arrival in Republic

Return Arouses Hopes

MK1003103092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Mar 92 pp 1, 2

[Reports by Nodar Broladze and Mikhail Tavkhelidze under the general headline: "'This May Be the Riskiest Step of My Whole Life.' Crisis in Georgia Proves Deeper Than Eduard Shevardnadze Thought"]

[Text] [Broladze report] A new stage from which a great deal is expected here has begun in Georgia's political life. All the forecasts are connected with the great political clout and international prestige of one man—Eduard Shevardnadze, who arrived in Tbilisi on the sunny Saturday afternoon of 7 March.

Shevardnadze was tightly and securely protected by bodyguards from Kitovani's guardsmen as he stepped onto the ramp.

"The people are tired of privation," Eduard Amvrosiyevich said to the welcoming party, "but I believe in their readiness to begin full-blooded creative activity, I believe in success." Eduard Shevardnadze expressed hopes for assistance from the CIS states and also friendly foreign countries and added that he had "come not as a private individual but as a politician aware of the need to roll up his sleeves and get down to work."

Refusing a motorcade, he went from the airport to the orthodox Zion Cathedral, where candles were lit to the glory of God and in the name of the salvation of Georgia, and then he drove to ravaged Rustaveli Avenue and inspected the damaged buildings.

The previous day the Georgian Democratic Union had issued a statement assessing the political and socioeconomic situation as catastrophic and calling for the creation of a Civic Salvation Committee. The members of

the Democratic Union assign Eduard Shevardnadze a leading role in this committee. This viewpoint is accepted today by the overwhelming majority of political parties and organizations. Even the most radical of them agree that Shevardnadze is the figure Georgia needs.

On 8 March at his residence Eduard Shevardnadze met with acting Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua and his first deputy, Tengiz Kitovani. "We made a fairly detailed analysis of the political and economic situation in Georgia," Sigua said after the meeting. "I saw for myself once again that Shevardnadze can really help, and his great international popularity is a reliable guarantee of this."

That evening at a short press conference Eduard Shevardnadze stressed that it is very important now to hurry to establish democratic institutions, particularly legislative power structures. "Only after we have decided this and shown the civilized world our determination to build a democratic society," he declared, "will the West actively begin to help us. The situation is grave. It is a question of saving the nation. And that is no exaggeration. The situation is disturbing, and I appeal once again to Georgia's citizens to unite and rally together for the sake of implementing national interests."

Answering journalists' questions, Shevardnadze said that the crisis in Georgia was deeper than he had thought, and accordingly his mood was gloomier than it had been in Moscow.

[Takhvelidze report] At a press conference for foreign journalists at the "Metekhi Palas" hotel on Saturday [7 March] Eduard Shevardnadze was asked: "Throughout his political career in both Georgia and Moscow Shevardnadze has never been totally independent in his policy. But now, on his return home, he has become not only independent but also effectively the top person in Georgia. Does Shevardnadze not believe that his hour of glory as a politician is beginning?"

The ex-minister replied that he is not thinking about his career, but he cannot remain on the sidelines at this grave moment for Georgia. So he has even set aside work on his memoirs, for which he is being promised $1.5 million, although his wife was opposed to this.

The timing of Shevardnadze's return to Georgia could not have been better: Georgia is in the throes of a postwar depression, the political situation is unstable, the level of crime is increasing, the economy is almost nonexistent, and, most important of all, there is seemingly no way out of this crisis. Many Georgians see Shevardnadze's arrival as the way out. He has many friends and great prestige in the West. He is experienced at diplomacy and politics. He is a man of compromise and resolute action. His political demarches are always timely and strong. At present there is no remotely serious political force in the republic that would venture to openly oppose Shevardnadze or his activity in high politics. Perhaps the most desperate "Zviadists" would do this. But no more serious opposition is likely to emerge in the immediate future. Shevardnadze will always be able to reach agreement with doubters. He was notable for his ability to reach agreement and to persuade back during his time as first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee.

Clearly, until the elections to the Supreme Council, which at his press conference Shevardnadze advocated be held soon, he will play the role of a kind of "eminence grise." And after the elections he is being tipped for the post of head of state. The main planks of his program, which is still not entirely clear, are elections, the formation of strong democratic power structures, and the creation of a normal economy. Judging by his statement, Shevardnadze is opposed to Georgia joining the CIS and in general to any special relationship with Russia and intends to make Georgia a small but world-noted Europeanized country pursuing its own independent policy. For this reason many people in the republic now believe that at present the interests of Shevardnadze and of Georgia coincide completely.

Denies Plans for Presidency

LD0903133792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1150 GMT 9 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Albert Kochetkov and Igor Gvritishvili]

[Text] Tbilisi, 9 Mar (TASS)—Eduard Shevardnadze plans to become involved actively in Georgia's political life, but he has not yet determined in what capacity. The former USSR foreign minister announced this today at his first news conference since returning to the republic. He categorically denied media reports that he wanted to stand for the post of Georgian president.

Analyzing the situation in the republic as a whole, Shevardnadze admitted that he did not expect the local economy to be in such a catastrophic state. In this connection he announced that he already had reached agreement with 60 countries on rendering Georgia urgent wide-ranging aid. The former minister admitted that his arrival in Georgia "was the greatest risk" he had taken in his life. However, he was prepared to stay in his motherland "for as long as the people want me to."

Seeks Western Help

OW0903145092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Former Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze is confident that the leading Western nations will help Georgia return to normal life. He told journalists in Tbilisi on Sunday [8 March] that real assistance, however, "can only begin arriving once the situation in Georgia has sufficiently stabilized."

According to Shevardnadze, he has come to his home republic to deal with practical tasks and work for peace and stability. One of these days a Georgia Rebirth

Foundation will officially open in Tbilisi in a building obtained from the provisional government especially for the purpose. According to IF's [INTERFAX] sources, Eduard Shevardnadze's Sunday meeting with the acting premier Tenghiz Sigua will be followed by another one later today. Shevardnadze intends to meet without delay with the leaders of all political parties to work out "a policy of reconciliation." Meanwhile, reports from the Chechen capital Groznyy say members of the dissolved Georgian parliament have been arriving there with the obvious aim of holding a session of "parliament in exile."

Expected To Join State Council

LD1003120292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1010 GMT 10 Mar 92

[By SAKINFORM correspondent Eduard Ediberidze]

[Text] Tbilisi, 10 Mar (TASS)—A new body of authority—the State Council- will probably appear in Georgia in the near future. This is envisaged in a draft plan for a temporary system of administration in the republic which has been devised by the Democratic Union of Georgia.

It is expected that the council will include Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the International Fund of Democracy and Revival [as received], acting prime minister Tengiz Sigua, and Military Council members Jaba Ioseliani and Tengiz Kitovani. Following this the Military Council will announce its own dissolution, while the Cabinet of Ministers will continue to function.

The plan proposes that the State Council will create a consultative body, in which a broad spectrum of political parties and public organizations will be represented.

Founds Revival, Democracy Fund

LD1003113392 Moscow TASS in English 1018 GMT 10 Mar 92

[By SAKINFORM AGENCY correspondent Eduard Ediberidze]

[Text] Tbilisi March 10 TASS—The charter of the Revival and Democracy Fund of Georgia founded by Eduard Shevardnadze was published here today. The fund is financed by the personal savings of the ex-Foreign Minister of the former Soviet Union and receipts from his lecture tours. The co-founders of the fund are Foreign Political Association, directed by Eduard Shevardnadze, the Economic Revival Union of Georgia, a group of Georgian entrepreneurs and a number of organizations.

The fund was set up in Tbilisi, where its directing bodies will function. The presentation of the fund is expected to take place in a few days.

Gamsakhurdia Supporters Attack Zugdidi Police

LD0903142192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1337 GMT 9 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Gvritishvili and Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 9 Mar (TASS)—Three policemen were killed and several were wounded in an explosion at the police department building in Zugdidi this morning. It was caused by supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

After this explosion, a mass attack was launched on officers of the law enforcement bodies and the national guard subunit on duty. By 1200 GMT, battles in Zugdidi, located in the center of western Georgia, were continuing. One can judge their scale by the fact that four helicopters have been transferred there today to reinforce the national guardsmen.

Rally Stopped

LD0903175492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1537 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] [Studio announcer] And now Mayak presents news from Georgia. Zurab Dvali, correspondent of the IPRINDA independent news agency, phoned in this dispatch:

[Dvali] At 1300 today a group of Zviad Gamsakhurdia's supporters tried to hold a meeting in Tbilisi's Vokzalnaya [Station] Square, apparently in connection with Eduard Shevardnadze's arrival. Several hundred people gathered there, but the guardsmen in the square fired into the air and stopped Zviad's supporters from holding their meeting, after which they dispersed. On this occasion, fortunately, there were no clashes or other unpleasant excesses.

On the other hand, in Sukhumi today adherents of the previous authorities held another rally, at which yet another call was voiced for general national disobedience. And, of course, Eduard Shevardnadze did not go without mention; his arrival in Georgia met with a very negative response. There is no calm in Zugdidi, in western Georgia. There was an attack on a militia station this morning: According to the evidence, the attackers were supporters of the ex-president. The exchange of fire which ensued has left casualties. The situation in the town remains difficult at the moment. According to unofficial reports, reinforced National Guard subdivisions have been sent there.

In another area of Georgia, Adzharia, the situation is not exactly easy, even if it is not as critical. A group of Adzharia Supreme Soviet deputies and the leaders of six political parties in the autonomous republic have sent an open letter to Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of CIS Armed Forces, and to Patrikeyev, commander of the Transcaucasus Military District. The letter states that the Adhzaria leadership is making use of the military subdivision of Batumi garrison to maintain the family

and clan autocracy: let me remind you that pro-Gamsakhurdia sentiments are strongest in this area. The Adzharia leadership is resorting to diverse means to accomplish its aims, including bribery and favors granted to the officers of the units, such as banquets, illegal payments, expensive gifts, and so forth. Furthermore, the military units are supplying weapons to illegal formations of supporters of the republic's former leadership, the statement says, and are participating in training and instructing members of these formations. This, the deputies believe, not only is a breach of the constitution, but is an essentially anti-constitutional act. The aforementioned gives grounds for assuming, the statement says, that there is a possibility that Batumi garrison's units may be drawn into a possible provocation initiated by Gamsakhurdia and the local leadership of the autonomous republic.

Well, those are the events of today, not very pleasant ones, of course: Zurab Dvali of the IPRINDA independent agency reporting specially for Mayak news.

[Mayak announcer] And I will just add some news which the staff of our Mayak news bureau has received. Eduard Shevardnadze plans to appear on Georgian television this evening. Eduard Amvrosiyevich spent this morning visiting the trading squares and markets in Tbilisi.

Government Creates Republic National Guard

LD0603144192 Moscow TASS in English 1308 GMT 6 Mar 92

[By SAKINFORM correspondent Eduard Ediberidze for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi March 6 TASS—Georgia initiated the creation of a national guard on Friday [28 February]. An appeal published in the local press invites all men under 35 years of age to join the guard on a contractual basis. The term of the service ranges from two to five years, officers will be monthly paid 2,000-2,500 rubles, soldiers—1,200-1,500 rubles.

The units of the national guard will be stationed throughout the republic, the appeal said.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1330 GMT on 6 March in a similar report adds: "Conscription will begin on March 10."]

Professional Units Planned

LD0403210892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1251 GMT 4 Mar 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Tbilisi—The recruitment to professional military units of Georgia's National Guard is planned to begin in the republic on March 10.

Tornike Papava, chief of the Georgian Defence Ministry's organizational department and the agency for the administration of local military districts, told PF [POSTFACTUM] reserve officers of all professions aged under 35 and rank-and-file and sergeants aged under 30 are accepted for military service from two to five years under a contract. Wages will be set depending on the post, rank and profession. Officers will receive not less than 2,000 to 2,500 roubles and the rest categories of servicemen—not less than 1,200 to 1,500 roubles a month. Allowances are envisaged.

Papava also said the system of draft boards was abolished since March 1. They were replaced by local government military bodies. According to Papava, a sample of the Georgian military card is now being created and the old military cards will be replaced shortly. He also said the draft of young people to mandatory military service in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Georgia would be announced this spring.

Latvia

Gorbunovs Warns Economy Could Force Resignation

LD0603233292 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2130 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Latvian Supreme Council Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs has said that the government and parliament are doomed to failure unless the economic slump in the country is stopped, according to the daily newspaper DIENA. During his trip to the country's eastern regions to meet with local farmers, Gorbunovs claimed that economic problems rather than political ones could force the parliament and government to resign. He admitted that legislation concerning land reform and other fields of the economy were being considered by the country's lawmakers very slowly, thus aggravating the situation. Gorbunovs suggested two ways of tackling the current crisis, saying the government should either offer subsidies to agriculture or increase wages, thus causing rampant inflation.

Protest Notes on Military Presence Sent

LD0603211692 Riga Radio Riga International in Latvian 2030 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Latvia has presented two protest notes to the Russian Foreign Ministry. One expresses doubts about the desire of the leaders of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States to solve the complex of problems associated with their military presence on the territory of the Baltic states. The directive signed as long ago as October on the withdrawal from military service of those personnel who were called up from the three Baltic states, and relating to whom a report has been presented, is not being fulfilled.

The second note is a protest to the commanders of the CIS Air Force, which, during several days in February, briefly restricted the operations of civil aviation in the airspace of the Republic of Latvia. This activity disorganized the work of the service, created threats to flight safety, and is contrary to the agreement reached to refrain from unagreed unilateral activities during the withdrawal of armed forces from Latvia.

Armed Troop Movements Reported

LD0603204892 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Yesterday, we broadcast information by the Security Service of Latvia on intensive movements by the occupation troops in the republic's territory. Andris Vilks, head of the Security Service Bureau, reports on what has been observed today:

[Begin recording] Several movements of motor vehicle columns in the direction of Riga have been observed today. From Saulkrasti, about 10 vehicles, including a van in which there were people dressed in civilian clothes and armed with automatic weapons, proceeded toward Riga. [Words indistinct] motor vehicles moved toward Riga from Adazi. About 10 motor vehicles moved along the Pskov-Riga highway in the direction of Riga.

A concentration and movement of (?assault troopers) could be observed at Spilve Airport [Riga]. Air space over Latvia remains at present absolutely without control.

All the aforementioned motor vehicle columns were composed of vehicles of various types. Some were equipped with radios, and [passage indistinct]. They all carried military personnel from various army units, with black or blue shoulderbands, and the like.

The movement of these vehicles was carefully planned and was controlled by militarized motor vehicle inspection posts, which halted other traffic to ensure the free movement of the columns. While enroute, the motor vehicles were regularly filled with fuel. In some cases the columns were accompanied by cars carrying persons dressed in civilian clothes. The state numbers on the motor vehicles were switched while enroute, being changed from the [name indistinct] number series to Estonian ones, and also other variations. By checking the letters painted on the army motor vehicles, it was possible to ascertain that the vehicles do not belong to troop units stationed in Latvia.

The Security Service of the Republic of Latvia, the deputies of the Commission for Defense and Internal Affairs of the Supreme Council, and the home defense guards are at present (?observing) the movement of the militarized motor vehicle columns in the territory of Latvia. They conclude that, first, the numerical strength of the armed forces stationed in the Republic of Latvia is being increased. This, without doubt, contravenes the agreement reached between the delegations of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Latvia in the 21 February talks held in Riga.

A qualitative exchange of troop units stationed in Latvia is taking place. These are being provided with additional means of communications, new armament, motor vehicles, and other—at present I would say—optimum kinds of military equipment.

The Command of the Northwestern Group of Troops and also the commanders of individual units do not inform the leaderships of the republic, towns, rayons, [words indistinct] on the movement of army groupings in the republic's territory.

Contacts between individual deputies from the Equal Rights faction and the leadership of the military units stationed in Latvia was observed during the period of the changeovers of the troops. Also at present, intensive agitation can be observed at industrial enterprises and at military units concerning the need to restore the former USSR borders, including the Baltic republics, and also, likewise, of liquidating the independence of Latvia.

I would like now to appeal to the inhabitants of Latvia. If people notice, see, or know anything, will they telephone the information to the Security Service of the

Republic of Latvia, telephone number 213177. I repeat, telephone 213177. Citizens, be alert during this very tense period. [end recording]

[Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian at 1830 GMT on 6 March, in a similar report, notes: "It is possible that the troops may begin military action on 16 March, when a gathering of former USSR deputies is set to take place in Moscow."]

Defense Minister on 'Unfriendly' Soviet Troops

LD0703022792 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2100 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] We have already informed you about the observed army activities on the territory of Latvia. Now we have a conversation between Latvian Deputy Defense Minister Valdis Pavlovskis and correspondent Janis Podins. Valdis Pavlovskis arrived in Latvia a month ago in order to assist in strengthening the security of our state.

[Begin recording] [Podins] Mr. Pavlovskis, you have spent more than a month in Latvia. What are your first impressions on how the armed forces of the Republic of Latvia are being formed? What are the main problems they encounter?

[Pavlovskis] I have been here a month and one day—slightly more than a month.

I think that the defense forces and the ministry are developing as is necessary—gradually and cautiously. I do not think that this could be accomplished better than is being done at present. Our biggest problems are that we do not have the means to buy weapons. We do not have the means to clothe our defense forces. There are no premises to house them at the border. There is insufficient time to train them. All these problems are political in that it is in the hands of the Supreme Council to give us the necessary assistance in order that we might successfully form our military forces.

[Podins] In Latvia there is an indeterminate quantity of Russian troops. The number is not even known by the Latvian ministers of defense or foreign affairs, who should know this. The number is presumably only known by Colonel General Mironov, commander of the Northwest Group of Troops.

How do you assess the situation that has arisen in Latvia with these troops here?

[Pavlovskis] I have always followed the events in Latvia. I have always felt the events occurring in Latvia.

The situation in Latvia today is very critical. My assessment is that in the near future we may expect from the unfriendly Russian forces here in Latvia—that is, from the army and other extremist groups—provocations and disturbances, in order to enable calling out the Russian Army and taking over the government and control in Latvia.

[Podins] In your opinion, what are the unfavorable symptoms observable in Latvia?

[Pavlovskis] First of all, there has been much activity by the Russian Army during the last few days here in Latvia. The news about military forces arriving here in civilian clothes but carrying weapons, about the founding of secret organizations, and about the loud and provocative speeches delivered by representatives of these organizations. I think that this does not bring to mind peaceful and friendly troops. This brings to mind an occupation force in Latvia.

[Podins] What would be the reason or the detonator which might cause the activity of these forces?

[Pavlovskis] I think that this will depend on them. I think it is not difficult to imagine what they might do. I would not like to predict the scenario that they might execute, but there are 101 things they might do. They might create dramatic conflicts with the police in order to provoke the police. One could predict that they might fabricate all kinds of incidents. They only need a reason or to show something. Nobody will be able to check whether this is true or not, but I think hysterics and provocation and such can be easily used.

[Podins] Is this activity being directed from some center right here in Latvia, or from Moscow, or from some other place?

[Pavlovskis] The network begins in Moscow and is coming to Riga. All this is coordinated action between Moscow and Riga.

[Podins] Has the intelligence service of the Ministry of Defense some information on what is being done in Moscow in order to prevent such activity?

[Pavlovskis] We have no intelligence service. We are gathering information, that is how we learn. I think that the Ministry of Defense has a good idea about what is being planned.

[Podins] Do you have a trump card in mind?

[Pavlovskis] I come from a country where there are great poker players. One important thing a poker player must know in order to win is that he must not reveal what cards he has. We do not intend to reveal our cards. [end recording]

Lithuania

Landsbergis Meets Japanese Leaders in Tokyo

LD0603235192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Excerpts] During his visit to Japan, Lithuanian Parliament Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis criticized Russia for not fulfilling agreements concerning the withdrawal of the former Soviet Army. Speaking at a Tokyo news conference he referred to the withdrawal of a first unit, consisting of approximately 100 individuals as being for show. He pointed out that, according to him, there are 60,000 foreign soldiers stationed in Lithuania. Vytautas Landsbergis also noted that the areas and property being vacated by the army are left in a state of disrepair.

Discussing circumstances regarding the introduction of Lithuania's own currency, Vytautas Landsbergis stated that much depends on whether the Litas Stabilization Fund will be established soon. In his estimation it will be possible to accomplish this following Lithuania's joining the IMF in April.

Power engineering constitutes another economic problem. Vytautas Landsbergis stated that an oil pipeline project is being prepared in Lithuania, and that work should commence on it this year.

Today, Vytautas Landsbergis and Foreign Economic Relations Minister Vytenis Aleskaitis met in Tokyo with heads of Japan's Economic Federation organizations. Japanese business leaders showed a great deal of interest in Lithuania's economic and political situation and perspectives. [passage omitted]

Tomorrow he will meet with Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and former prime minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Education, Investment Discussed

LD0703001192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0800 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] The Information and Analysis Center of the Lithuanian Supreme Council reports on the visit by Vytautas Landsbergis to Japan:

Yesterday, at 1400 Lithuanian time, a telephone conversation took place with the chairman of the Supreme Council, Vytautas Landsbergis, who is on an official working visit to Japan. Vytautas Landsbergis described the progress of the visit.

Yesterday, Japanese Emperor Akihito and his wife received Vytautas Landsbergis and his wife Grazina. There was much talk about the history of Lithuania and Japan during a conversation which lasted for 55 minutes. The Japanese Emperor congratulated Lithuania on the occasion of the restoration of independence, and supported the idea of closer cultural cooperation between the two countries. The Japanese emperor said that he would support the proposal by Landsbergis to enable Lithuania to make use of the experienece of the Japanese education system.

During a meeting with the Lithuanian delegation, this idea was supported by the Japanese prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa. The Japanese premier was interested in the political and economic situation and the conditions for foreign investment in the Republic of Lithuania. The minister of international economic relations, Vytenis Aleskaitis, who was present during the conversation, supplied a great deal of concrete information about the economic situation in Lithuania. An agreement was reached on a visit by Lithuanian education experts next autumn.

Vagnorius Interviewed on Relations With Russia

LD0903045992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Interview with Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius by unidentified reporter on 7 March; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Vagnorius] I want to assure you that after my 6 March meeting in Moscow and after the signing of the protocol on trade and economic cooperation for 1992 matters will improve. Of course, nobody can guarantee that all deliveries provided for in the protocol will be fulfilled, but I want to assure that the basic positions that are most important for the enterprises of Lithuania will be observed. We will take all measures necessary. If our partners do not fulfill their obligations, we will be compelled to take appropriate measures. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Did you feel the influence of conflicts on a political level; for example, the reaction of Russia to the statement by Mr. Lozoraitis [on Kaliningrad] in the Lithuanian press? During your stay in Moscow did you get any political clues? Will they influence the progress of economic solutions, talks, or meetings?

[Vagnorius] I do not think that the Russian Government has serious claims to the Republic of Lithuania. The fact that Mr. Lozoraitis unofficially expressed his view on an issue does not mean that this is the stand of the republican government. Second, it does not mean that Mr. Lozoraitis himself stated all this officially. On the other hand, we hear today many statements by the former leaders of the Soviet Union, and by Russian politicians, on the future of the Baltic republics, but we do not draw any conclusions because of this. The Russian Government does not reproach us in this issue, and it would be pointless to do so.

We had discussions on the political situation and stability in this region with Mr. Burbulis, who admitted that the present economic and political situation in Russia is very complex and that tension is increasing in this month in public life. Here our stands and our economic and political solutions coincide, although I must say that sometimes the influence of the public, or one group, can be felt in the solutions of Russia's economic services. This is natural.